**Minutes of March Monthly Meeting of Trim Town Council held 7th April, 2014 at**

**7.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, at Mornington House, Summerhill Road, Trim.**

**Members Present**

Cllrs O’Shea (Cathaoirleach), Bligh, Cantwell, French, Kenny, McHugh, McKenna, and Reilly.

**Officials in Attendance**

D. Foley, Trim Town Manager, F. Skehan, Trim Town Clerk, V. Collins, Town Engineer,

T. Keating, Staff Officer.

**1.0 Confirmation of Minutes of meeting held on the 11th March, 2014**

Proposed by Cllr. Cantwell and seconded by Cllr. McHugh

Standing Orders were postponed to allow the Town Manager make a presentation to the Members.

The Town Manager advised the Members that there had been extensive negotiations with Aldi with regards to the old Civic Offices site at Watergate Street, Trim and that they’d made an offer subject to planning and is recommending acceptance of initial offer on the site of €585,000 excl. VAT.

Cllr. McKenna asked to be excused from the discussions as his business was subject to negotiations.

**Members raised the following issues:-**

* Thanked the Administrative Staff for making the site a priority and look forward to the development going ahead;
* Asked if the sale of the site beside the OPW would go ahead;
* It is hoped that the structure will be in keeping with the heritage of the town;
* Asked if pylons would be an issue;
* Asked if a traffic study would be required;
* Asked if a contribution could be made towards the playground;
* This is very important for retailers and look forward to it increasing the footfall on Market Street and visitors. It will increase the amount of people working in retail and the amount of money going into the local economy. It will be part of the streetscape rather than a separate development;
* Expressed delight that this has happened within the time of Trim Town Council;
* Gave recognition to existing businesses within the town for the great work they are doing and service they are providing.

**The Town Manager responded to items raised as follows:-**

* No progress has been made on the adjoining site so no development will proceed on that site;
* Store design - will be anxious that a good sensitive design will be put in place;
* Pre-Planning discussions are already underway;
* Aldi are aware that there is some element of contamination and have built it into the offer they have put forward;
* It is fully in compliance with the retail strategy for Trim;
* Contribution for the playground will be further down the line as the site hasn’t planning permission.

# Matters arising from the minutes

**The following points were raised: -**

* Discussed time capsule and the closing ceremony of this Council;

Cllr Reilly advised that he and the Cathaoirleach visited the 4 primary schools in Trim. They met with teachers and the children were intrigued with the time capsule. 6th class students were asked to write out what they think their town will be like in 50 years.

The following suggestions were made as to what should be placed into the time capsule:-

* + Photos of the streets of the town, Town Maces and 6th Class Students.
  + The last minutes of Trim Town Council Meeting. A list of the last Councillors, Manager, Town Clerk and Town Engineer.
  + Voluntary organisations to be invited to submit photos of their groups and a list of people.
  + Oldest person on the town and parents of the youngest person and their aspirations for the future.

All ex-councillors are to be invited to a function on the night of the closing ceremony.

An all party motion is to be submitted for the next meeting to have a time capsule to commemorate the Town Council.

* Triangular manholes are rattling in a number of locations in the town.

**3.0 Expressions of Congratulations and Sympathy**

Congratulations

*Congratulations were expressed to the following:*

* St. Mary’s Secondary School who won an award at the Feis Ceol and were asked

to send a band to a competition in France.

* Trim Celtic for reaching the semi-finals of the Leinster Junior Cup.

Sympathy

*Sympathy was expressed to the following:*

* Sad condolences to the Larkin Family on the death of Eileen Larkin and to her large family in Supervalu. Letter to be sent to the Owner, Staff and customers sending our condolences.

**4.0 Correspondence and matters raised by the Manager and Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk advised the Members that a notice would be placed in this weeks Meath Chronicle regarding weight restriction on Patrick Street Bye Laws 2014.

Town Manager updated the members on the Town Hall. He advised that he received a report from the Facilities Manager and the estimated cost of repairs needed is €790,500 which does not include procurement of Consultants, tendering costs or supervision. He has spoken to a representative of t-ACT in relation to the report and he will meet them to

discuss it further. Members who wish to attend the meeting are welcome to do so. The options available are to carry out the works, leave it as it is, allow t-ACT in and they carry out the works or demolish the rear hall portion of the building and open it up with the Castle as a backdrop.

**Members responded as follows: -**

* The OPW had expressed an interest in buying the Town Hall.
* Thanked the Manager for his report. The performing arts in Trim need a home. The Town Hall is their only option but is it a realistic option with the costs involved.
* Expressed disappointment at the report. The previous Town Clerk gave a report where costs were in excess of €600k. t-ACT were set up and had a meeting with officials a year ago and were told that the Council were amenable to giving them access to the Town Hall. t-ACT have been led a merry dance. In 2009 it was a priority of the Council to provide a home for visual arts.
* It would be crazy to invest such money into an old building. A site needs to be located in Trim for a theatre which would facilitate other groups.

**5.0 Statutory Business**

5.1 **To consider the proposed amendments to the Draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 together with the managers report on submissions and the recommendations of the Trim town and area members and if thought fit to make the Trim Development plan 2014-2020 with or without further modification, pursuant to section 12 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014**

Proposed by Cllr. Cantwell and seconded by Cllr. McHugh

5.2 **To receive Audited Report on Annual Financial Statement and Annual Financial Statement for Trim Town Council for year ending 31st December, 2012**

The Manager presented the report to the Members. He advised that a loss was incurred of €193,000 for 2012 which was due to the decrease in income in recent years in particular parking income and the downturn in the economy. They have endeavoured to manage the affairs of the Town Council in the last number of years and cut our budget without affecting the services of the town. A €5m loan was taken out at a time when revenue was a lot better and repayments on the loan are significant, and is hampered by our reduction in income.

**Members responded as follows;**

* It was asked if the loan would come back to Trim Municipal District.
* Asked if Meath County Council discharge loans before money is divided up into the Municipal Districts.
* Asked how much money was collected for CCTV over the years.
* Asked what the long term plan is in relation to the Coffee Shop.

**Manager and Town Clerk responded as follows:-**

* County Council will inherit the debts and assets of the Town Council.
* There are assets as well as liabilities going to the Council.
* CCTV monies are in a capital account and cannot be accessed unless you have revenue to replace the money taken from the capital account.

5.3 **To receive report on Block Grant funding**

The Town Engineer advised the Members that they were allocated a block grant of €161,300 for 2014 and set out where proposals for works namely on Newhaggard Road and repairing any deficiencies in footpaths highlighting areas in the town most in need of repair.

**Members responded as follows:-**

* Welcomed the works on Newhaggard Road.
* Asked if the footpath from Marcy Regan’s up the Navan Road could be raised at area level.

- Town Engineer advised that this would be submitted as a scheme to the NTA.

* Asked when it was envisaged works on New Haggard Road will commence;

- Town Engineer advised that tenders are due back at Easter. The completion

date for all works is the 31st August.

* + - It was asked if works could be completed in Newhaggard Road in advance of Tidy Towns judging.
    - Asked if the Engineer had submitted a scheme to the NTA for public lighting at Crowpark out to Butterstream Gardens.

- Town Engineer advised he would check the matter out with Infrastructure Section.

* 1. **To nominate 2 members for County Meath Ireland Collection Ltd – Visitor Centre**

Cllr. Reilly nominated Cllr. French who was seconded by Cllr. McKenna.

Cllr. McKenna nominated Cllr. McHugh who was seconded by Cllr. Cantwell.

1. **Notice of Motion**

6.1 Notice of Motion received by Cllr Philip Cantwell

*“In light of recent bad press about charities and the lack of regulation on where the money given is eventually spent, that Trim Town Council shall write to other Town Councils/Municipal Councils and the Minister for Justice, seeking to review the present unacceptable situation and to only permit collections for local organisations including political parties and or local charities or other local causes or clubs within the town and or Municipal Boundary of each local Authority – this is an attempt to stop the ongoing situation whereby collections and or collectors from outside the boundary are constantly based outside local business premises such as the post offices, banks, supermarkets, with a notice from a District Court in Limerick or elsewhere, which may or may not be displayed, allowing such collections to be taken and where the money collected is not in a sealed container and where An Garda Siochana although concerned from complaints from the public, are powerless to intervene and or stop the constant harassment of members of the public and or intimidation of our elderly citizens after collecting their pensions”*

Cllr French seconded in principal the motion and so to did Cllr. McHugh.

**Members raised the following:-**

* National charities with local branches should be allowed collect.
* Worthy charities were intimidated by commercial collectors.
* The Gardai cannot do anything unless they are directed by the Minister.
* Older people are intimidated into giving money.

It was agreed that a letter be written to the Minister for Justice and the formulation of the wording to be agreed between the Town Clerk and Cllr. Cantwell.

6.2 Notice of Motion received by Cllr. Philip Cantwell

*“In light of the constant danger of young children in the Church car park when parents are dropping off and or collecting their young children at either of the two Primary Schools, that Trim Town Council will contact the HSE on the possibility of amalgamating the Church Car Park with the Parking Area in St. Joseph’s Hospital and thereby provide a safer and more user friendly entry and exit points – that this larger and safer parking area for the two Primary Schools be included in the present plan to divert the heavy vehicles for safety reasons to protect our students away from Patrick Street, thanks to the intervention of our local Meath West Dail representative, Deputy Ray Butler TD”*

It was noted that the HSE car park is the location of the first responders. Cllr. Cantwell then withdrew his Notice of Motion.

**7.0 Engineers Report**

**Members raised the following issues: -**

* Asked if it would be possible to place a yellow-box at the entrance to the old Clinic Patrick Street which is the location of the first responders. Also, some emergency entry and exit signs.
* Informed the Engineer that there are two bad potholes at the Navan side of Newtown crossroads.
* Informed the Engineer that a pothole at the bottom of Loman Street at the junction of Mill Street has raised its head again.

**8.0 Schedule of Managers Orders**

Noted

**9.0 Matters raised with the consent of the Cathaoirleach**

*Cllr. French raised the following:-*

* Wooden fence on the Navan Road outside Hamilton Place is in need of repair.
* Surface of the Church carpark is in disrepair.

*Cllr. Reilly raised the following:-*

* Advised he attended the Meath Alliance for Age Friendly with the Town Clerk. He was very impressed to see so many people working in the county for Age Friendly.
  + Town Clerk advised that they had their first meeting on the 25th March and it is

hoped that short term actions will be realised as part of the Age Friendly Plan.

Cllr. Cantwell raised the following:-

* Asked if Drinadaly Graveyard could be made safe for elderly people.
* Asked if signage could be removed on Patrick Street.-
* Asked if a ramp could be placed on Patrick Street to slow down traffic.
* Advised that the footpath at St. Joseph’s has a sharp dip on it.
* Asked for a second pedestrian crossing on Patrick Street.
* Asked if the surface on Patrick Street could be planed towards the ring road.

*Cllr. O’Shea raised the following:-*

* Thanked the Foreman and Town Engineer for various ongoing works.
* Wished a good future to Aine Doran on her retirement on behalf of all the Councillors and asked that a letter of appreciation be sent as Aine was a true professional and a lovely person to deal with.

***This concluded the business of the meeting at 9:00p.m.***

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cathaoirleach**

**Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_