

**Minutes of the February Meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on
Monday 5th February at 8.00pm at the Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee.**

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair: Cllr. Claire Haugh

I Lathair: Cllr. PJ Lardner, Cllr. PJ Linnane, Cllr. Brian Keane, Cllr. Lily
Marrinan Sullivan, Cllr. Michael Martin, Cllr. Tom Nolan, Cllr. Michael McGrath

I Lathair David Timlin, Director of Service & Town Manager

Steve Lahiffe, Town Engineer

Siobhán Curran, A/Town Clerk

Cllr. Haugh advised the meeting that the Town Manager was running late but had requested that the meeting commence without him.

At the outset of the meeting Cllr. Lardner requested to address the council. He advised the council that he wished to withdraw comments made by him at the January meeting. He explained that the comments had been made off the cuff and apologised for any upset his comments had caused.

**1. Adoption of Minutes of January monthly meeting of Kilkee
Town Council held on Monday 8th January at 8.00pm at the
Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee.**

The Minutes of January monthly meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on Monday 8th January were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. Martin and seconded by Cllr. Deloughery.

Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan wished to clarify that it was she who had proposed the vote of sympathy for David Ervine and not Cllr. Martin as recorded in the minutes.

It was agreed to defer item no 2 until the Manager arrived.

3. Draft Kilkee Civic Award Scheme

A/Town Clerk advised that following a recent notice of motion requesting a Civic Award Scheme she had prepared this Draft Scheme for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Haugh thanked the A/Town Clerk for the document and advised that the members would consider the Draft Scheme and revert back at a later date.

4. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nolan

“ That members of Kilkee Town Council dissociate themselves from negative comments relating to the death of David Ervine, at the January meeting, and that Kilkee Town Council formally send a message of condolence to Mr. Ervine’s family”

Cllr. Nolan advised that he submitted this notice of motion because he felt that meetings of Kilkee Town Council should not be used as a public platform

to pass comments on the passing of someone. He said that he had received many negative comments from members of the public following the reporting in the local press. He accepted the apology offered and he hoped that the press would now report the apology.

Cllr. Nolan requested that a letter of condolences be forwarded to David Irvine's widow and family from Kilkee Town Council. This was supported by Cllr. Haugh and Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan.

5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Tom Nolan

“ That the bye-laws relating to drinking in public places be reviewed and adopted”
Cllr. Nolan said that he understand that in accordance with the standing orders this notice of motion could not be considered. However he did request that this notice of motion be carried forward to a council meeting in 5 months time.

He went on to state that he felt that the council had effectively tied the hands of the Gardaí by not introducing the bye-laws. He said that the elected members of this council should reflect on their responsibility, be community leaders and tackle the culture of drinking in this country.

Cllr. Haugh expressed surprise that there were so many consenting voices at the January meeting but did feel that because some real concerns had been raised that she had decided not to adopt the bye-laws at this time.

Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan advised that the council had been faced with a real dilemma on how to legislate for various scenario's. She advised that she had concerns about passing a bye-law that would be difficult to change and that she felt it was very important to get the bye-law right.

Cllr. Nolan expressed his frustration that these bye-laws had been in train for the best part of 8 months and that to raise concerns at the eleventh hour was not good enough. He said that as a result Gardaí were still not empowered to tackle drinking on the beach and in parks.

Cllr. Lardner agreed with Cll. Nolan and said that these bye-laws were working in other towns and was very disappointed that they had not been adopted.

Cllr. Martin said that he would not make any apologies for not adopting the bye-laws, that the decision should not be branded as shameful as it was a democratic decision.

Cllr. Keane felt that with so many pubs closing in Kilkee managing drinking would not be a problem.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Tom Nolan

“ That details be made available of the cost of road repairs to date to the Dunlicky road between the quarry at Moveen east and the Town’s promenade, and whether any portion of the costs have been borne by the operator of the quarry’

The following written response was submitted by Michael Mescall, Executive Engineer;

Reconstruction of the Coast Road between Downes Cross and the Goleens was undertaken in the years 2000 and 2001 under the multiannual roadwork’s programme. Repairs to the road between Moveen Quarry and the sewerage outfall location were carried out at different periods in the years 2003 to 2006. The repair works consisted of the excavation of the failed locations, installation of 100mm broken stone, rolling and tarmacadamming. In all some 8 to 9 weeks was spent over the 4 year period at a cost of €92,000. To date the Council have not sought recoupment from the quarry operator of any of the costs incurred.

Response Ends

Cllr. Nolan advised that the point of submitting this notice of motion was to highlight the damage being caused by these heavy vehicles. He understood that it was within the power of the local authority to levy charges for damage and requested to know whether the council was going to move on this.

Steve Lahiffe, Town Engineer advised that he would have to revert back to the council on this issue. He advised that to the best of his acknowledge this quarry was still the subject of a quarry application and as no decision was made as yet on the licencing of it no conditions have been enforced on it.

Cllr. Linnane advised that he had viewed the file in relation to this application and could confirm that Clare County Council have requested stringent information from the applicant including an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and a Traffic Impact Study. The council were awaiting receipt of this information.

7. Updates on Allenders Field & Hodges Green UVR Schemes

The following updates were submitted by Mairead Corbett, Administrative Officer, Economic Development & Planning Section, Clare County Council.

Progress Report for the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme at Hodges Green, Kilkee

The Urban and Village Renewal Scheme at Hodges Green Kilkee is being undertaken in-house by Clare County Council. A total allocation off €100,000 is available for this work, which involves the upgrading of Hodges Green Open Space.

Work in ongoing on hard landscaping and the stone wall is nearly complete. Work has commenced on the path network and soft landscaping.

The Scheme will continue to be managed by the Clare County Council Urban and Village Renewal Team, which includes the Planning Department and the Councils Architect.

Progress Report for the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme at Allenders Field, Kilkee.

The Allenders Field Amenity Park at Kilkee under the Urban and Village Renewal Programme for 2005-2006 has reached practical completion stage which means that project is effectively complete except for some snagging.

The urban and Village Renewal Scheme will continue to be managed by the Clare County Council Urban and Village Renewal team, which includes the Planning Department and the Council's Architect.

Reports Ends.

Cllr. Lily Marrinan Sullivan raised serious concerns regarding the width of the cycleway/footpath in Hodges Green. She said that it must have been an oversight that the width of 3m had not been noticed in the plans. She advised that members of the community had expressed concern regarding the safety aspect of the cycleway/footpath feeling that the area was too small for a cycleway and asked whether an agreement could be reached on this part of the project.

Cllr. Linnane supported this request as he felt that a path this wide would invite drivers onto it during the busy summer period.

Steve Lahiffe, Town Engineer said that because Clare County Council were carrying out the works on this project in-house he could revert back to the council Architect and request that the width of the path be looked at again. He did advise that if the cycleway was removed the pathway would have to be increased to 2m to accommodate special cases.

Elected members congratulated the council on the work in Allenders Field.

8. Correspondence

All correspondence was noted.

9.A.O.B

New Official Photograph of Kilkee Town Council

A/Town Clerk advised members that she has arranged to have the council photographer present at the March council meeting and requested members to arrive 10 minutes early to facilitate a new picture being taken.

Back of Strand Hotel

Cllr. Martin raised concern regarding the condition of the laneway at the back of the hotel. Steve Lahiffe, Town Engineer advised that part of that laneway had been tarmaced at the request of the Fire Station and had been paid for

by them. Steve advised that he would have to look at the continuation of that laneway because he understood there was some public/private issues.

Old Football Field

Cll. Martin asked about the large crater size potholes at the old football field. Steve Lahiffe, Town Engineer advised that this was not fully in charge of the council.

Pollock Holes

Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan expressed concern about the large scale removal of mussels that had taken place recently at the Pollock Holes. As this is an SAC area she requested that signage be erected to prevent commercial activity like this.

Cllr. Linnane felt that this was an isolated incident however Cllr. Nolan stressed that once the mussels have been removed the damage to the ecology of the area has been done.

Dumping on Bog Road

Cll. Keane advised that serious illegal dumping was taking place on private land on the bog road. He advised that he had previously requested 'No Dumping' signage but as yet none have been erected. Dave Timlin, Town Manager stressed the importance for everyone to report such illegal activity to the Environment section of the council so that the enforcement team can act on it.

Accident

Cllr. Keane referred to the tragic accident that had taken place in Kilkee last weekend and pointed out that no mark of respect had been placed at the scene.

Tidy Towns

Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan requested that the Tidy Towns be invited to attend the March meeting of Kilkee Town Council to discuss the 2006 report and their action plan for 2007.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded.

Cathaoirleach

A/Town Clerk