Minutes of the March Meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on
Monday 5th March 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, Cllr. Carmel Deloughery.

I Lathair David Timlin, Director of Service & Town Manager

Steve Lahiffe, Town Engineer
Siobhán Curran, A/Town Clerk

1. Adoption of Minutes of February monthly meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on Monday 5th February at 8.00pm at the Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee.

The Minutes of February monthly meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on Monday 5th February were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. Linnane and seconded by Cllr. Martin.

2 . 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 Urban and Village Renewal Scheme at Allenders Field, Kilkee.

This scheme has been completed.

Progress Report for 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 of 100,000 is available for this work, which involves the upgrading of Hodges Green Open Space.

This Scheme is ongoing. The stone wall has been constructed and it is expected that a contractor will be on site within the next two weeks to do the footpaths and 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 Council's Architect.

Report Ends

Cllr. Haugh congratulated all involved in bringing the Allenders Field project to completion and acknowledged the commitment of the former town manager Bernadette Kinsella to this project.

Cllr. Marinnan-Sullivan asked whether there was a completion date for the Hodges Green project. S. Lahiffe advised that completion of the project was weather permitting and that sub-contractors were on hand ready to start

work on the footpaths and landscaping when the weather allowed. Steve confirmed that following discussions at the February meeting the size of the footpath has been reduced to the minimum possible.

3. Kilkee Tidy Towns – Review of 2006 Results and Identify Actions for 2007

Following a request from the Tidy Towns Committee it was agreed to defer this item until the April meeting.

4. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Claire Haugh

"That ramps be put in place on the strand line as a traffic calming measure"

Cllr. Haugh advised that she had submitted this notice of motion because of concerns that had been expressed to her by residents regarding speeding along the strand line. Cllr. Martin supported the motion. He said having witnessed the speeding he felt that the town was being used as a circuit. Cllr. Marinnan-Sullivan & Cllr. Linanne also supported the motion. Cllr. Keane suggested that ramps might not offer a solution to this problem. Cllr. Nolan agreed that some sort of restriction was necessary.

S. Lahiffe advised that there is a proposal for a pedestrian crossing at the pantry that would contribute to a reduction in speed and would incorporate a ramp. He also advised that there was also a proposal for another pedestrian crossing on the Carrigaholt road and that he was in favour of this kind of horizontal alignment.

5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Claire Haugh

"That a cul-de-sac sign be erected at the entrance to Sunny Side estate on the Miltown road"

Cllr. Haugh advised that residents in this area had complained to her about how dangerous it was coming out of this estate as people are not aware that there is an entrance into an estate at this point.

S. Lahiffe advised that a 'Concealed Entrance' sign might be the most appropriate sign for here and that he will look at it.

6. Correspondence

The two pieces of correspondence circulated with the notice of meeting were noted.

Cllr. Haugh then referred to a piece of correspondence received by her and all the elected members from the residents of Railway Road and Ball Alley Lane.

The correspondence read as follows;

'We, the undersigned residents of Railway Road and Ball Alley Lane, object most strenuously to the imposition of double yellow lines on sections of these two residents streets on the following grounds;

- *No proper, open and transparent consultations were undertaken by Town or County Councillors with any of the residents of these town streets.*

- *No alternative parking facilities have been offered to the residents effected.*
- *Up to now there never have been any complaints of parking problems and incidents of traffic congestion on these streets.*
- *Have any councillors considered the disturbing impact these discriminatory parking restrictions will have on the residents for no apparent reason ?*
- *We consider the imposition of such parking restrictions a most retrograde step for our area and request that you have the yellow lines removed'*

43 people signed the correspondence.

Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan said that there were areas all over the town where the imposition of double yellow lines was causing great upset. She stressed that the Traffic Management Plan had not been passed by this council and that there was no logical explanation for some of the traffic management measures.

Cll. Martin stressed that there were now some houses on the West End with no access at all. He said that the measures were an over-reaction to a problem that only exists for a short period of time during the summer months. He called on Clare County Council to lift the double yellow lines.

Cllr. Haugh said that the TMP had been requested for the good of the town but did feel that this was now the eleventh hour to be discussing problems. Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan disagreed with this view.

Cllr. Nolan supported Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan but also conceded that most of the focus during the various consultations had been on Marine Parade & Circular Road. He now felt that there was a huge democratic deficit on this issue and that the response has been disproportionate to the problem. He stressed that the TMP has been requested at the outset in the context of getting additional car parking spaces but that no new car parking places had been provided in Kilkee. He felt that modern design standards should not be applied to an old town and wondered where exactly people who used to be able to park are now expected to park their cars.

Cllr. McGrath referred to the Smiths Gardens area where there were now double yellow lines on both sides of the road.

S. Lahiffe responded setting out the timeframe of consultations, workshops and meetings on the matter of the TMP and stressed that Clare County Council had been very public on this matter at all times. He added that the Gardaí were satisfied with the plan and indeed felt that it would enhance the town. Steve said that he was now surprised to hear of problems regarding railway road and that no submissions had been received regarding railway road or ball alley lane during the consultation process. Steve pointed out that health and safety legislation placed considerable pressure on the council and that standards will not be compromised. Steve pointed out that the yellow lines have gone down first but that the white lines that provide for parking will be going down next. He stressed that any plan is a changing document,

that can change to reflect changing circumstances and will be monitored and reviewed.

7. A.O.B

Deputation of traders from Circular Road.

The elected members agreed to suspend standing orders to accept a delegation representing the traders from Circular road. Cllr. Haugh informed the delegation that three people could speak on their behalf.

Marion outlined the problems being experienced with deliveries to their business as a result of the double yellow lines. She said that with up to 65 deliveries a week, if delivery vans have to park across the road then it stands to reason that deliveries will take longer, making the situation worse.

Martin said that if double yellow lines were left then there would be no businesses left on Circular Road. He said that there should have been consultation with people in different areas.

Ann Haugh said that it seemed that the TMP has been designed with traffic flow only in mind and with tourism and business as only secondary considerations.

Conor said that the age profile of people in the area was quite old and that the double yellow lines posed a serious risk for those people who cannot park.

Cllr. Nolan queried where monies received by Clare County Council from development contributions are going if no new car parking spaces have been provided.

Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan asked whether an additional loading bay could be placed on circular road to facilitate the businesses.

D. Timlin, Town Manager said that he felt that the plan was very well drawn. He committed to looking at the issues raised at tonights meeting regarding Ball Alley Lane, Railway road and Circular Road and will report back at the April meeting. He also said that the intention was to review the rest of the plan in Autumn as they need to allow time to monitor how the plan is working.

'Live Shopfront'

Cllr. Martin asked what the term 'live shopfront' in the context of planning meant ? A/Town Clerk advised that she would make enquiries and revert back to Cllr. Martin.

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr. Haugh proposed a vote of sympathy to John Marrinan on the death of his brother Tom Marrinan. Cllr. Haugh paid tribute to Tom Marrinan as a quite, unassuming man who had demonstrated huge commitment to his work, working 7 days a week. Cllr. Martin supported this vote of sympathy

describing Tom Marrinan as a diligent and courteous employee of Clare County Council. Cllr. Marrinan Sullivan also supported the vote of sympathy.

St. Patricks Day Parade

Cllr. McGrath extended an invitation to the town manager, a/town clerk and town engineer to attend the Kilkee St. Patricks Day Parade.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded.

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Cathaoirleach

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A/Town Clerk