

Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting of Athlone Town Council, which was held in the Civic Centre, Church Street, Athlone at 6.00p.m. on Tuesday 2nd June, 2009

Attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. E. Moran

Members: Cllrs. A. Berry, J. Butler, M. Cooney, P. Hogan, R. Lennon, K. Molloy, K. Moran and M. O'Connell

Officers: Mr. Barry Kehoe, Director of Services
Mr. John Walsh, Town Clerk
Mr. Alan Kelly, Town Engineer
Ms. Anne McNamara, Assistant Staff Officer

Votes of Sympathy:

All the Members wished to be associated with Cllr. Lennon's expression of sympathy to the family of the late Hugh O'Neill, Iona Park.

Minutes:

It was proposed by Cllr. Molloy,

Seconded by Cllr. Cooney and resolved,

“That we hereby confirm and adopt the Minutes of the May Monthly Meeting which was held on May 5th 2009.

Managers Orders:

The Members noted the summary of Managers Orders as circulated.

Sale of recreational drugs:

The Members noted a lengthy letter from the Minister for Health and Children which outlined the current legal position regarding the sale of “legal drugs/recreational drugs”. Cllr. Cooney said referring to hard drugs as recreational was totally contradictory and the Minister should be written to again.

Overdraft Accommodation:

It was proposed by Cllr. K. Moran,
Seconded by Cllr. Cooney and resolved,

“Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Acts 1925-2001, we hereby approve of borrowing by means of temporary overdraft accommodation in the sum of €3m in respect of the half year ending 31st December, 2009”.

Farewells:

As it was the last meeting of the current Council, the Mayor thanked his colleagues for their support and co-operation during their 5 year term and wished them well in the election and wished Cllr. Berry, a long and happy retirement. He thanked the Executive and staff of the Council, Barry Kehoe, Director, Alan Kelly, Town Engineer and in particular John Walsh, Town Clerk who was there to offer his assistance and guidance.

Each of the Members in turn expressed their thanks to colleagues, executive, indoor and outdoor staff and the press. All paid tribute to Cllr. Berry who had decided to retire and thanked him for his contribution to the Town over a 10 year period.

The Town Clerk and the Director who spoke on behalf of the County Manager, thanked the Members for their assistance and co-operation over the last 5 years and wished success to those seeking re-election.

Cllr. Berry thanked his colleagues and the Executive. He said he had been privileged to have been a Member of the Council for 10 years and that he had enjoyed the experience, working as a team for the betterment of the town. Though Members might have had their differences through the years, they always respected each other and did what was best for the town. He thanked the County Manager, Director of Services, Town Engineer and Town Clerk John Walsh who was always there to meet with if needed and Anne McNamara for work with the meetings. He also thanked the press and radio for their representation. He said he would miss the Council and wished all his colleagues well in the Election, hoping they would all be returned.

The Director of Services thanked Cllr. Berry and said the County Manager sent his best wishes to him for his retirement.

This concluded the business of the meeting.