

- 5 -

MONTHLY REPORT OF TOWN SURVEYOR: The monthly report of the Town Surveyor copies of which had been circulated, was noted. Members mentioned items of housing repairs needing attention and the Town Surveyor undertook to look into these.

CHRISTMAS FOWL MARKET: It was decided that the Annual Christmas Fowl Market for this year be held on Wednesday, 18th December.

OTHER BUSINESS: A letter from the Wicklow & District Men's Association drawing the attention of the Council to various matters requiring attention and was referred to the Town Surveyor for his comments thereon.

A letter was read from Rev. Fr. McGuirk regarding the Soccer Pitch on The Murrough which was now unusable due to the Grain Drying Plant being located thereon. The Council indicated that they had no objection to the soccer pitch being moved further north in the direction of the caravans.

Councillor Kelly enquired if a list of the recipients of fuel under the Cheap Fuel Scheme could be circulated but the members felt that as this was not the usual practice it should not be done.

Councillor Kane referred to the condition of the streets due to operations of the E.S.B. and Department of Posts & Telegraphs and was told by the Town Surveyor that he was pressing these bodies for an early reinstatement of the roads.

* Councillor Conroy enquired if provision for shops could be made in the Scheme of Housing Development on Dunbur and was told by the County Manager that this indeed could be done and could be considered in connection with the next stage of the development scheme.

The meeting concluded at 10.10 p.m.

J. A. Conroy

Copyright: Wicklow Council

WICKLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONTHLY MEETING

HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER, 1963

Present: Councillor T. A. Delahunty, Chairman, Presiding, Councillors J. Kelly, T. Conroy, J. Lalor, J. Kane.

In attendance: Town Surveyor, Mr. J. T. O'Byrne, B.E., and Town Clerk, Mr. M. J. Cusack.

Apologies were received from Councillors W. Hopkins, J. Everett, T.D. and from the County Manager, Mr. M. Flannery.

Opening the meeting, the Chairman referred to the assassination of the President of the United States, Mr. J. F. Kennedy, which had shocked the world some 12 days ago. He paid tribute to his memory and mentioned that he had sent a telegram of sympathy to the American Ambassador on behalf of the people of the town. Councillor Kane seconded the motion which was supported by all present and passed in silence all standing. The meeting was adjourned for a few minutes as a mark of respect.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 5th November, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

PUBLIC LIGHTING: The Council agreed to the application of the Wicklow Traders' Association to have the decorative street lighting for Christmas connected to the public lighting system, cost of same to be recouped to the Council.

The Chairman said it would once again be his pleasure to donate a Christmas tree for the town. The Town Clerk said the Chairman and members of the Council had been invited to attend the switching on ceremony of the Christmas lights which would take place about 4.30 on Friday, 13th December.

HOUSING LIST NO. 14: The meeting considered a letter from the County Medical Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Council's request for a re-examination and a revision of the Housing List. The meeting indicated that they would be satisfied if the County Medical Officer would re-examine the present housing conditions of each applicant and submit a report thereon.

Regarding the 4 Houses at Castle Park, the Town Clerk indicated that Mr. McNulty, Contractor, was prepared to undertake the work at the price he had tendered and that an application had been submitted to the Department of Local Government for the sanction of the Minister to the acceptance of Mr. McNulty's tender.

SCHOOL MEALS SCHEME: The Town Clerk reported that Very Rev. Fr. Power had very kindly placed portion of the Parochial Hall at the disposal of the Council for the operation of the School Meals Scheme. The equipment required had been delivered in time and had been installed and the meals commenced on Monday, 25th November. He said that the scheme was progressing very satisfactorily and that the average daily attendance was in the region of 150 children. The Council noted the report as satisfactory and asked the Town Clerk to convey to Father Power their appreciation and thanks for his very kind assistance.

TENDERS FOR CON-ACRE: The meeting was told that tenders had been invited for the con-acre letting of 2 small fields at St. Patrick's Road which had been under allotments for the past 5 years. One tender only was received and was opened by the Chairman. It was from Edward Dickenson, Keatingstown, in sum of £20 per field. The Town Clerk confirmed that the figure quoted was reasonable and the Council approved the acceptance of the tender.

SMALL DWELLINGS (ACQUISITION) ACTS: LOAN OF £20,000: It was proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Conroy and resolved:-

"That we hereby request the sanction of the Minister for Local Government to the borrowing of the sum of £20,000 from the Commissioners of Public Works, repayable over 35 years for the purpose of making advances under the S.D.A. Acts, 1899-1958".

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT: The meeting considered a copy of the Speech by the Minister for Local Government, which had been circulated, made to the Senate on the second reading of the Bill. The Town Clerk said he understood that the Bill would become law on 1st April, 1964, and within 3 years from that date the Council would be obliged to bring into force a town plan. He also mentioned other items in the Act of interest to the Council.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The meeting then considered the financial statement, copies of which had been circulated. Members noted the serious reduction in the income from water rents due to curtailment of production by Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd. It was decided to write to the firm drawing their attention to the efforts made by the Council over the past 3 years to meet the enormous demands of the factory for water; to stress how the income derived had been ploughed back into water supply improvements and to indicate how seriously the Council would be effected by the reduction in water consumption at present and consequently the loss of income. It was further decided to enquire from Shamrock Fertilizers as to what their estimated water consumption for the remainder of the year would be and also what their requirements for the forthcoming year would be. Councillor Kane suggested seeking additional assistance from the Government to compensate for the loss of water rents.

The Council then dealt with the electrical installations in Council houses and considered ways and means of remedying the position. After some discussion it was decided to contact the E.S.B. on the problem; to ascertain their suggestions on the best way of dealing with it and to find out how much an E.S.B. survey of the state of the wiring would cost. Councillor Conroy disapproved of the cost of the wiring which had been carried out as indicated in the report. On the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Kane, the Council agreed, Councillor Conroy dissenting, to approve the expenditure in sum of £93. 2. 6. incurred in the rewiring of 10 houses.

It was further agreed on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Kane, to approve additional expenditure in sum of £60 to cover urgent repairs such as plumbing, which might require to be done before the end of the financial year.

Councillor Conroy referred to the number of urgent plastering repairs requiring attention and reference was made to the difficulty of securing the services of plasterers. It was decided that this item could be considered again at the next meeting.

LEASE OF SITE TO THOMAS MURPHY: A letter was read from the Council's Law Agent confirming that under the provision of his lease, Mr. T. Murphy Dunbur Road, was entitled to erect one dwellinghouse only on the site. The Council could give him permission to erect a second dwelling and would in law be entitled to increase the rent accordingly. The Law Agent said that a failure to revise the rent could lead the Council to be surcharged by the Local Government Auditor. The Town Clerk mentioned that the County Manager strongly recommended the Council to accept the advice of their Law Agent regarding the increase of rent. The County Manager felt that the rent should be £5 which would be half the rent of the new sites. After considering this matter the Council agreed, on the proposal of Councillor Lalor seconded by Councillor Conroy to grant permission for the erection of a second dwelling, subject to an increase in the leasehold rent of from £2. 2. 0. to £5. 5. 0. per annum.

FORESHORE PROTECTION WORKS: A letter was read from the County Council regarding the application of Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd. for assistance towards the scheme of Foreshore Protection Works which they propose to carry out on the Foreshore adjoining their factory at North Quay. The meeting indicated that they were not satisfied with the progress being made by the County Council in the matter and requested that body to give serious and immediate consideration to the proposal.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM WICKLOW & DISTRICT MEN'S ASSOCIATION: The Town Clerk read three letters from the Wicklow & District Men's Association regarding a number of items such as road works, street lighting etc., which they felt needed attention. The Town Clerk dealt with the various matters raised and the meeting decided that he should reply to the Association on similar lines.

TOWN PLANNING: An application was received from the Wicklow Branch of the Jubilee Nursing Association for permission to erect a garage and to provide an entrance gate in the boundary wall of the house tenanted by their nurse at 2, St. Laurence's Park. The Town Surveyor indicated that he had no objection and the Council recommended that permission be granted.

SEALING OF DOCUMENTS: TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME: It was proposed by Councillor Kelly seconded by Councillor Lalor and resolved:- "That the Seal of the Council be and is hereby affixed to Lease and Counterpart wherein the Council demise, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Local Government, to Mrs. Margaret O'Reilly for the sum of £249, No. 5 Kilmartin Road, of which she is at present tenant, for a term of 99 years from 29th September, 1963, at an annual rent of £1. 0. 0."

Councillor Kelly referred to the tenant who proposed purchasing their houses on a weekly basis and said that they were experiencing difficulty in meeting the legal expenses in sum of £20 approx. It was decided that an approach be made to the Law Agent to see if he would be prepared to accept the fees on an instalment basis.

MONTHLY REPORT OF TOWN SURVEYOR: The Council then considered the monthly report of the Town Surveyor, copy of which had been circulated. Regarding Foreshore Protection Works, Councillor Conroy queried the proposal of the Engineer to hold over approximately 1,000 tons of boulders until the Spring. The Town Surveyor explained in detail his reason for doing so and after some discussion the Council agreed to the Town Surveyor's proposal.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Town Clerk submitted an application from Miss M. Bullard of Bath St., for a Housing Reconstruction Loan. He indicated that the application was only received that afternoon and had not yet been examined in detail. The Council unanimously agreed to recommend Miss Bullard as a suitable applicant for a loan.

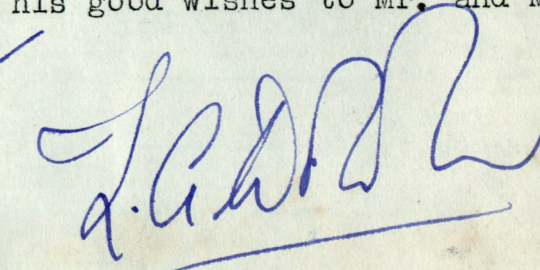
Councillor Kane referred to the proposal of some time ago to decentralise some Government Departments and suggested that the Council should make an approach to have one of the Departments sited in Wicklow. The Council unanimously agreed to make application.

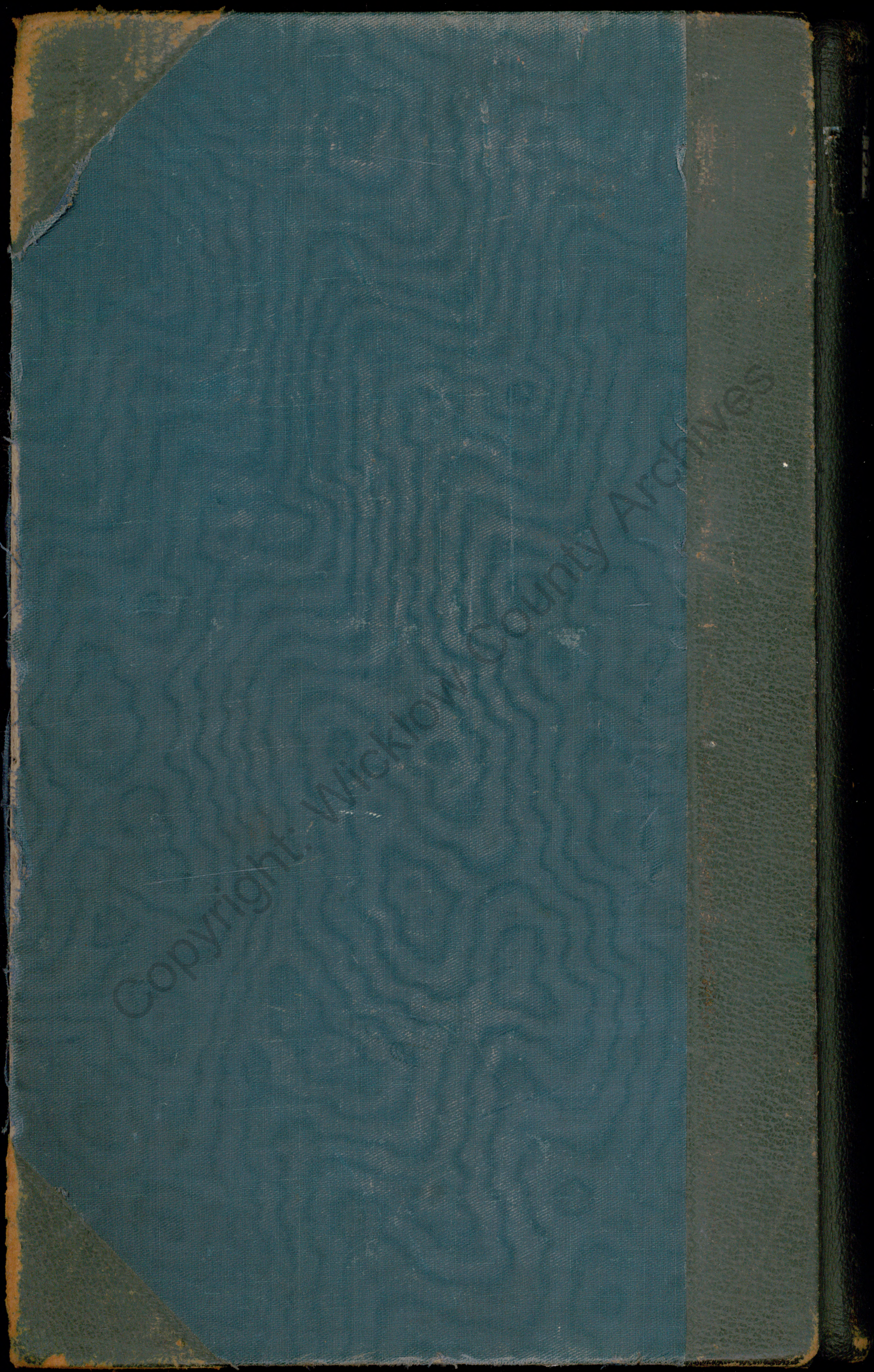
Councillor Conroy mentioned that there was money in the Voluntary Civic Improvement Fund for the purpose of tree planting and enquired if this could be used to re-plant the Mall. The Town Clerk mentioned that he had recently discussed this matter with the County Manager and they felt there would be difficulty in establishing flowering cherries in this position. The meeting agreed to seek the advice of Mr. Dawson, Horticultural Instructor on the matter.

Councillor Conroy referred to a previous proposal of his for the establishing of a car park at Bachelors' Walk and enquired if any progress had been made in this direction. The Town Clerk said that the provision of Car Parks would be one important item to be dealt with in the preparation of a town plan. The Town Surveyor thought that Bachelors' Walk was not central enough and said that in his opinion the most suitable location would be on portion of the Abbey grounds extending from Wentworth Place to the Big Tree. The meeting thought that this item should be given careful and serious consideration at an early date.

The Chairman wished the members and staff and their families a very happy and holy Christmas and Councillor Conroy replying on behalf of the members thanked the Chairman and expressed his good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Delahunt for Christmas.

The meeting concluded at 9.45 p.m.





Copyright Wicklow County Archives