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Councillor Conroy had raised some matters regarding the two houses under construction at Castle St., and he had written to the Architect and received the following reply:-

re: 2 Houses, Castle St., Wicklow.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 20th inst., I wish to state as follows:-

- (1) When possible, local labour has been employed on this Contract throughout.
- (2) Contractors have complied with specifications and conditions of labour.
- (3) Houses are to be completed 6 months after acceptance of Contract and it is anticipated they will be ready at the end of April or early in May.

I have forwarded this day a further certificate for £500 to the Contractors, making total certificates to date £1200. I shall be obliged to receive payment of fees as requested in my letter of 13th February last.

Yours faithfully,
John P. Butler

Noted. Councillor Conroy said he would bring the matter up again in a months time.

The Town Clerk told the Council that as the loan of £3,000 had not as yet been received from the Commissioners of Public Works, it would be necessary to transfer a further sum of £380 from General Revenue Account to Capital Account to meet the second instalment to the Contractors. It was proposed by Councillor Kavanagh, seconded by Councillor Doyle and resolved:-

"That the sum of £380 be transferred on loan from the General Revenue A/c to the Capital A/c to meet payment on the 2nd instalment on the Contract in respect of 2 houses at Castle St., Wicklow, as the loan of £3,000 has not yet been received from the Commissioner of Public Works, and that we hereby authorise an overdraft in the General Revenue A/c up to a sum of £1,080, which is the total amount transferred on loan to Capital A/c."

VACANT COUNCIL HOUSE - 1 ST. KEVIN'S TCE: The Town Clerk informed the Council that the County Medical Officer regretted that he was not in a position to submit his report on the applicants in time for the meeting, owing to previous appointments and commitments, and as he had only got the applications on the previous Friday. Councillor Conroy questioned the delay in letting the house and the Town Clerk said that the only reason for the delay was that the County Manager always wished to consult with the Council, though he held the function of letting the houses. It was agreed that the letting of the house be postponed to the next monthly meeting.

COUNCIL TENANTS - REPORT OF ABSENCE OF TENANT: The Town Clerk informed the members that Mr. Jas. Hill, tenant of No. 3, Castlefield, had been granted leave of absence for a period of three months which expired on the 31st March, 1957. An application had now been received for a further months absence and was accompanied by a Medical Certificate stating that Mr. Hill's wife was as yet unable to travel to Ireland. The Town Clerk said that when permission was granted on the last occasion, Mr. Hill was informed that no further leave of absence could be granted. Due to the extenuating circumstances in this case the Council decided to grant permission for a further final month.

REPORT OF TOWN SURVEYOR: Two reports received from the Town Surveyor were read as follows:-

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2nd April, 1957.

re: Monthly Report - March, 1957

A Chara,

The roads and streets were kept in good order by the scavenging department during the month. The drawing, by lorry of materials being removed from the river to the dump at the Black Castle did cause a certain amount of accumulation on the route, but this could not be avoided owing to the weather conditions and the condition of the materials; I understand from the Harbour Master that the work will shortly be terminated, and when this is done, the streets will be cleaned.

I had the work at the Dumping Ground carried out in building the concrete slip-way and cleaning the dump generally and improving the road and removing as much as possible of the old rubbish and debris from the grassy ground under the houses. Several old motor car chassis and gate irons were broken up and pushed out to sea.

In the event of Bord Failte giving a grant during the year, (for which I am preparing a scheme for submission) I will include for a suggestion to move the dump somewhere further down towards the south of Travelahawk Bay. It might be possible to get Bord Failte to include this in such a scheme of improvement or at least pay a substantial part of the cost which would run about £375.

The water supply is still (fortunately or unfortunately whichever way one looks at it) in plenty supply.

I had St. Dominick's Road, St. Bride's Tce., St. Kevin's Tce., and Cooper's Lane tarred and surfaced during the month; also St. Laurence's Road down to the junction with St. Patrick's Road. It was very fortunate that this work was carried out before the weather broke.

Mise, le meas, etc.

A Chara,

With reference to the matter of Housing Repairs for 1957/58 it would help the Council to know that 66 houses will be painted and I propose to start in the season about May at the very latest.

Regarding other items these could not possibly be forecast but they can be anticipated from past experience, viz: repairs to and renewals of cisterns, connections, locks, range parts and fittings, sinks etc., and all the other small items of hardware and drainage and sewers which are bound to crop up in the maintenance of 266 houses. Exchange of tenants also always necessitate cleaning of walls, dis-tempering etc. Doors, panels slips, weatherboards, also call for frequent attention. Roof tiles, plastering, pointing and attention to fencing are other items which come under this Heading. At the same time I am sure the Council realises that if all the complaints received were taken seriously the bill at the end of the year would be far beyond what the Council could afford. I am only trying to help the Council to carry out the very limited programme necessary to keep its houses in fair order and the Council has almost always done so.

J. T. O'Byrne,
Town Surveyor

Councillor Kavanagh remarked that a excellent job had been carried out at the Dumping Ground, but he doubted if An Bord Failte would contribute to the cost of moving the dump south of Travelahawk Bay. Arising out of the special report on housing repairs the Council decided that at each monthly meeting a report should be submitted to them showing the repairs carried out in the previous month.

TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNING ACTS - P. J. LAWLESS: An application was received from Mr. P. J. Lawless for permission to construct a greenhouse at the rear of his premises at St. Manntan's Rd. The Town Clerk said that the Town Surveyor had no objection to the proposal and it was recommended that permission be granted.

LEASE TO COUPER WORKS: The Town Clerk informed the Council that the draft lease in respect of two plots of ground at the Murrough, Wicklow, to Couper Works, Holland, had been prepared and had been examined and approved by the County Manager. It would now have to be submitted to Messrs Couperis' Solicitor for their approval.

FLOODING AT BLACK CASTLE ROAD: Councillor Kavanagh stated that the flooding of the Black Castle Road was still continuing and he wished to know if the Town Surveyor was attending to the matter. The Town Clerk said he would bring it to the notice of the Town Surveyor.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

*At. Hudson
7/5/57.*

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