



**Minutes of Special Rathkeale Area Committee Meeting  
Held in the Rathkeale House Hotel,  
Lower Main Street, Rathkeale,  
on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2006 – 11.00.a.m.**

- Present In the Chair :** Councillor D. Naughton.
- Members Present :** Councillors J. Griffin, T. Neville, J. Sheahan, K. Sheahan.
- Officials Present :** B. Martin S.E.E., G. Liston, E.E., T. Breen, S.O., S. Hayes, A.O.,  
T. Philips, Social Worker,
- Deputation :** M. F. Roche.

Councillor J. Griffin informed the Meeting that both himself and Councillor T. Neville had met with the St. Joseph's Burial Ground Committee on two occasions, and briefly outlined the maintenance and other concerns of the Committee in relation to the Burial Ground. The purpose of the Special Area Committee Meeting was to commence the formal process to review and progress the burial ground operation, with local consultation being part of the process. Councillor J. Griffin requested Councillor Neville to outline in greater detail to Members and Officials, the issues that had arisen from their Meetings with the local Committee.

Councillor T. Neville confirmed the Graveyard Committee had requested the following works/measures be introduced in the management of the St. Joseph's Burial Ground :- that existing Council policy in relation to Burial Grounds be enforced i.e. 4' headstones, 7' Celtic Cross, introduction of an ongoing upkeep/maintenance programme (grass-cutting etc), removal of obstructions (concrete flags/marble slabs) in walkway, drainage/removal of surface water from front gates, cut-back hedges/trees, provision of public lighting, provision of water tap, and appointment of a Caretaker. Councillor Neville stated the Graveyard Committee could not understand and were critical at the Council's failure to implement its policy in St. Joseph's Burial Ground through the years.

Councillor J. Griffin suggested any new policy introduced in Rathkeale should include headstones facing in one direction with access paths running at the gravespace footings, removal of the roadside stonewall removed and replaced with flower beds with public lighting interspaced through these beds. He requested that Officials cost the requested works, and that the elected Members would look for a budgetary allocation at Estimates time. Councillor Griffin also spoke of the need to control and police any works undertaken by contractors in the burial ground.

Councillor K. Sheahan queried if the St. Joseph's Burial Ground Committee undertook voluntary routine maintenance/clean-up works at the burial ground, on a similar basis to the operated in other areas, and questioned the necessity for public lighting at a burial ground.

T. Philips, Social Worker, confirmed the traveller community preference to erect large monuments in burial grounds to their deceased, but was of the view that it was necessary in Rathkeale, to reach a compromise solution that was workable with both the traveller and settled communities.

B. Martin, S.E.E., informed Members that having spoken with the Council's legal representatives, there was no legal basis to prevent erection of monument type headstones in St. Joseph's burial ground, based on past practice. The Area Office were operating a policy since 2003, whereby the erection a new monument required provision of a monument design and specification, for agreement, and provision of a Consulting Engineer's certificate certifying the monument to be structurally safe/compliant with Health and Safety regulations. Mr. Martin stated a Burial Ground Caretaker was in place at the Burial Ground,

and that access for the erection of monuments by contractors was strictly controlled through the Area Office.

Councillor Neville requested that the legal advice received in relation to St. Joseph's Burial Ground be circulated to the elected Members.

S. Hayes, A.O., spoke of the necessity to move forward and implement a new policy that would reflect the special needs of Rathkeale. Current proposals suggested, would permit the erection of a Celtic Cross or Monument to a maximum of seven feet. The revised layout for St. Joseph's graveyard would be examined, and further legal advice would be sought with a view to implementing enforceable policy.

Councillor D. Naughton recommended that any new policy in relation to burial grounds, should include a provision for the removal of any unauthorised headstone or monument, by the Council.

Councillors J. Griffin and T. Neville requested the St. Joseph's Burial Ground Committee deputation again be invited to a Special Area Committee Meeting in August, and review progress made.

**A.O.B.**

B. Martin, S.E.E., informed Members that following a submission to the Department of Marine, notification had been received from the Department allocating a grant of €18,750 to the Council for pavement improvement works at Kiltteery Pier.

That concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER, 2006.

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Secretary.