

# Summary of the Minutes of Bantry Town Commissioners Bantry Town Council

(August 1896 – May 2014)



Compiled by Frank O'Donovan

## **Introduction:**

I was Town Engineer in Bantry from March 1987 to May 2009. When I realised that the Town Council would cease to exist after 31 May 2014 I volunteered to do a quick summary of the Minutes of the Town Commissioners / Town Council over the 118 year lifespan. My compilation is a brief summary, from the Minutes, of the work of the public representatives. I have endeavoured, as much as possible, to use text from the Minutes and avoid colouring any part of my summary with my own impressions.

Hopefully, what follows will give the reader a flavour of events in particular times in Bantry. However, in this page I will give my impression, that standard throughout the lifetime of the Body was (1). writing / receiving several letters at meetings, (2). expressing votes of sympathy, (3). the odd skirmish with employees and officials was to be found too.

The Town Commissioners received invoices and decided at meetings how much they would pay. They often paid the supplier less than was invoiced and you will see examples later. Then in 1942 a Town Manager was appointed and amongst his executive functions was to handle payments. So from then onwards payments were no longer the duty of the Commissioners. The first Town Manager was James O'Mahony from Kilbrogan Hill, Bandon. (note: I knew him, as other Bandonians did, as Seamus O'Mahony – well really he was '*Mr O'Mahony*' to me!).

In the first 60 years or so it was amazing the number of planned meetings which did not take place because of the lack of a quorum.

I am confident that some of the officials listed in the document did not actually attend meetings. This applies in particular to Town Managers who would be covering for holiday periods, etc. and would be appointed as Town Manager for technical reasons but would not necessarily attend at a meeting or other duty. A few Town Engineers are listed who too would have covered holiday periods. The Town Clerks listed all covered a number of meetings. I think that they did use their discretion at times in their wording of minutes.

I ponder if we have a national record in Bantry? The first Town Clerk was John O'Callaghan and he served for a total of 37 years, which is a long term in itself. Then his daughter, Mary, took over and she served for 46 years, so between father and daughter they held, on a continuous basis, the position of Town Clerk for 83 years – surely a record! I have to comment that their excellent handwriting was of enormous help to me.

Unusual that we had two Commissioners named Charles O'Donovan at the same time. Again a little later we have two named Daniel McCarthy at the same time. Finally we did have two Commissioners named Justin McCarthy, but at different times.

A few terms used are Assistant County Engineer sometimes abbreviated to ACE; Assistant County Manager abbreviated to ACM. We may read of an event being organised but the details of what it was about are sometimes not included in the Minutes.

I hope you will find at least parts of the document of interest and you will get an impression of what was happening in Bantry over the decades.

Frank

## **Summary of the history of Bantry Town Commissioners**

First elections were held on 12 August 1896.

The first meeting was held on Monday 17 August 1896 in the Grand Jury Room of the Court House, Bantry.

Commissioners elected and present were:

George William Biggs  
John Cullinane  
Daniel Donovan  
James Gilhooly  
Joseph O'Brien  
Benjamin O'Connor  
William Henry O'Sullivan  
Robert Swanton  
William Warner

Robert Swanton was moved as temporary Chairman for the purpose of electing a Chairman for the year ahead. There were two proposals for the position of Chairman, viz. William O'Sullivan and Benjamin O'Connor. On a vote Benjamin O'Connor secured the support of Commissioners Cullinane, Biggs, Warner and himself while William O'Sullivan was supported by Commissioners Swanton, O'Brien and himself. Commissioners Gilhooly and O'Donovan did not vote. Benjamin O'Connor was duly elected as the first Chairman and took the Chair.

The Commissioners decided to appoint a Clerk at their next meeting on a salary of £10 per year and the position to be advertised in the Southern Star on 22 August 1896. Further business was adjourned to the next ordinary meeting.

Meeting on 7 September 1896 and there was only one applicant for the post of Town Clerk, namely John O'Callaghan, a Law Clerk in Bantry, and he was unanimously appointed.

The Rotation list was then made out as follows: John Cullinane, Daniel Donovan, B. O'Connor, J. O'Brien, J. Gilhooly, W.H. O'Sullivan, G.W. Biggs, W Warner, Robert Swanton.

They unanimously decided to light the town, for the present with 20 oil lamps, and the Clerk was directed to get prices and ask for illustrations. The Clerk was also to communicate with the Constabulary and ascertain how the town was protected by police patrols at night. Having received prices for oil lamps then 30 oil lamps were ordered from Ms. Murphy & Co @ 17 shillings each. Messrs Biggs, Donovan and O'Sullivan were the sub committee to select sites for the lamps. John McSweeney's tender for the supply and erection of lamp posts @ 8/6 each was accepted. Also the tender of Daniel Leary for the supply and erection of brackets @ 8/0 was accepted. Daniel Collins was appointed lamp lighter @ 15/0 per week.

Other business done during 1896 included the Commissioners seeking that the tolls in the town be secured for the township.

Meetings were normally held at noon but were often adjourned in these times.

In 1897 they agreed to advertise the position of Rate Collector on a commission of 4d in the £ on amount collected and lodged. Three (3) applicants for post of Rate Collector and Timothy McCarthy was unanimously appointed.

Legal advice being sought on procedure due to the non completion of the slob enclosure and pier dredging and there was concern over the “disgraceful state of the streets”. The members complained about sheep and straw on footpaths on fair days.

No quorum was a feature even in these early days of the Body.

On 5 April 1897 they agreed to erect 49 enamelled street name plates and change the name of “The Square” to “Egerton Square”. Name plates were ordered from Messrs Murphy & Co.

In May 1897 “Mr Gilhooly gave notice to move at the next meeting to have the public Square now called Egerton Square henceforth called Wolfe Tone Square” However at the May Meeting the Chairman ruled that the resolution adopted at the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> April 1897 should first be rescinded after proper notice.

In November Benjamin O’Connor was unanimously elected Chairman for another term.

Expenditure from 12 August 1896 to 31 December 1897 was £ 230 16s 9d.

On 6 June 1898 sympathy was expressed following the death of Commissioner Joseph O’Brien

In August 1898 Mr Donovan moved that the resolution of 5<sup>th</sup> April naming the public Square ‘Egerton Square’ be rescinded. This was defeated by majority.

The Rate Collector was directed to close his accounts, and in October they refused an increase in the Watchman’s wage from 12s “as he was not calling out the hours of night as directed”. This was increased at the December meeting to 15s  
Expenditure for year ended 1898 was £157 13s 11d.

Meeting on 23 January 1898 and James Gilhooly was unanimously elected Chairman for the coming year. Mr O’Donovan was elected Vice-Chairman. This appears to be Mr Daniel Donohue’s and Mr Michael Minehane’s first meeting. Members were:

John Cullinane  
Daniel Donovan  
James Gilhooly  
Benjamin O’Connor  
William Henry O’Sullivan  
Michael O’Driscoll  
Daniel O’Donoghue  
Michael Minehane  
John Sullivan

Mr Michael O’Driscoll moved that “the resolution of 5<sup>th</sup> April 1897 naming the public Square Egerton Square be rescinded” and it was carried by 5 votes to 2. Again in April 1899 a resolution was unanimously adopted that the Square be named Wolfe Tone Square. The Town Clerk was instructed to order new name plates for Wolfe Tone Square. Also at that meeting it was resolved to communicate with Bantry Estate requesting that a portion of the

tolls and customs collected by Bantry Estate should be applied to the town since the repaving and maintaining of the Square was paid for by the township and surrounding area. A reply from Mr Turner, Agent for Bantry estate stated that Mr Leigh White had contributed £500 towards the Square improvements and was himself a large ratepayer and so could not agree to the Commissioners request.

Audited accounts to 31 March 1899 was £ 76 5s 3d. No quorum at meetings was again common.

At a meeting on 4 December 1899 it was resolved “that the watchman be directed to call out each hour between 11pm and 5am and that the extinguishing of the lights be commenced at 2.30am in accordance with the Town Clerks instructions”.

Present at a meeting of 23 January 1900 were:

James Gilhooly (in the Chair)  
Daniel Donovan  
Daniel Donoghue  
Michael Driscoll  
Michael Minehane  
John F Lyons  
Robert Kelly  
Patrick O’Leary  
Benjamin O’Connor

Messrs Lyons, O’Leary and Kelly were newly elected.

Mr Gilhooly was unanimously elected Chairman for the year and Mr O’Donovan as Vice-Chair. The meeting adjourned as a mark of respect to the late James Cullinane.

A Resolution was passed to the Sanitary Authority for public urinals to be provided at suitable locations in town.

No quorum for a meeting was a feature in this era.

In October 1900 it was agreed that the Town Clerks salary would be increased to £15 per annum from last March.

On 3 December 1900 they resolved “that having learned that the General Prisons Board have approved of the closing of the Bantry Bridewell from 31 inst we request them to hand over the premises to the Bantry Town Commissioners for the benefit of the township and the erection thereon of a suitable Town Hall or other public building”

Expressing Messages of Sympathy was a regular part of meetings.

1901 AGM and Commissioners were:-

James Gilhooly (in the Chair)  
Daniel Donovan  
John McCarthy  
Michael Driscoll  
Michael Minehane  
John F Lyons  
Robert Kelly  
Patrick O’Leary  
Benjamin O’Connor

Daniel Donovan was elected Chairman for coming year and Michael O'Driscoll as Vice-Chairman.

The Commissioners were interested in acquiring the Bridewell from the General Prisons Board and the Commissioners were seeking terms for same.

Abstract of Accounts for y/e 31 March 1901 Expenditure £ 108 8s 0d.

In August 1901 they resolved to seek a "proper public water supply for Bantry" from the Bantry Rural District Council.

They were threatening the Rate Collector if rates were not collected.

The passing of cheques for payments to suppliers and staff was standard at meetings. The Commissioners often paid a lesser sum in full and final settlement than was invoiced by the customer. We will see examples of this later.

A meeting on 6 January 1902 where a letter dated 11 December 1901 was received from the General Prisons Board that "since the receipt of the Commissioners letter of 5 Dec the negotiations for the utilisation of the Bantry Bridewell for Government purposes unexpectedly fell through and the premises had then passed into the possession of the County Council". The Commissioners then resolved to request the County Council to lease the premises to the Commissioners at a nominal rent since the Commissioners did not have offices.

The AGM failed on 23 January 1902 and again on 3 February due to the lack of a quorum. In March 1902 Mr O'Donovan was unanimously elected Chairman and Mr O'Driscoll as Vice-Chairman.

The Rate Collector was again under fire over his collections. However in June the Rate Collector got an increase to 6d in the £ commission on lodgements. But by November of 1902 they had another swipe at the Rate Collector about arrears and also the Watchman about his calling out the hours at night.

5 January 1903: Meeting adjourned as a mark of respect to John J O'Connor (brother of Benjamin O'Connor)

At the AGM, Daniel O'Donovan was elected as Chairman and Mr Driscoll as Vice-Chairman.

And during the year the Rate Collector again under threat over his collections.

At a Special Meeting on 23 September 1903 the Commissioners unanimously approved the terms of a lease of the old Bridewell premises and vacant plot facing William Street from Cork County Council to the Bantry Town Commissioners for the term of 99 years subject to a yearly rent of £3.

In October, Mr O'Driscoll and Mr O'Connor were appointed to inspect the Bridewell premises for alterations to offices for the Town Clerk and for holding of Commissioners meetings. They were to carry out the necessary works and provide the required furniture.

Audit for y/e 31 March 1902 – total £105 15s 0d  
Comm. Patrick O’Leary is mentioned as a solicitor at this time in the Minutes.

At the December meeting the Clerk gave the required Bond in the sum of £20 and we will note below that the Local Government Auditor referred to this in his report. Also a letter was received from the Secretary, General Post Office, Dublin asking if a portion of the Bridewell property could be made available for a post office. They agreed to give a frontage of 56 feet facing the Square and the Clerk was to convey this to the GPO.

January 1904 and the AGM and adjourned monthly meeting were held on Sat 23 Jan at noon. On a vote Mr O’Donovan was elected Chairman and Mr Minehane was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

In February five (5) Rural District Councillors were assigned to the town of Bantry forming the District Electoral Division of Bantry Urban in the Bantry Rural District. The Local Government audit report noted that there was not a Bond in place for the Town Clerk but noted one was being prepared. Also the Local Government Auditor noted that “the Rate Collector’s books were not at all satisfactory, his books had not been closed for the year that was under audit”.

Abstract of Accounts for year ending 31 March 1903:-

To Receipts during the year	£	
Fines	6.14.0	
Town Improvement Rate	88. 9.3	
Surplus from sale of dog licences	<u>7.19.8</u>	
		<u>103.2.11</u>
By Balance at close of last year		
Due to Treasurer	11.4	
Due to Clerk	<u>6.3</u>	
		17.7
By Expenditure during the year		
Public lighting & Watching	61.14.3	
Salaries	15. 0.0	
Rents	1. 6.0	
Printing, Stationery & Postage	3.4	
Incidental expenses	<u>8.10.5</u>	
		86.14.0
By Balance in favour at close of year		
Due by Treasurer	11.15.3	
Due by Clerk	<u>3.16.1</u>	
		<u>15.11.4</u>
		<u>103.2.11</u>

In April 1904 the Commissioners recorded their “most strenuous objection to the introduction of the Cash on Delivery Post by the Post Office Authorities” It would make trading more difficult for local shops/ suppliers they claimed.

The Rate Collector was again warned this April about his collections and lodgements.

No quorum for a meeting was again a common happening.

In June 1904 they recorded their deepest sympathy on the death of fellow Commissioner, John F Lyons. In July, Daniel Lyons, brother of the late J F Lyons, was unanimously co-opted.

Audited expenditure to y/e 31 March 1904 was £133 4s 9d.

The Rate Collector was ill for the previous few months so they decided to advertise his job and his services were dispensed with. From 3 applicants for the job, on a vote by the Commissioners on Sat 22 October Daniel Linehan was appointed as Rate Collector.

It was normal to have several letters to read at meetings and votes of sympathy passed. Resolutions were frequently forwarded from other Authorities for consideration. Tenders for the supply of oil, wicks, matches, lamp chimneys were sought annually. Circulars were abundant too.

At a special meeting on Sat 3 December “it was unanimously agreed to present an address to O’Donovan Rossa on the occasion of his visit to Bantry on 4<sup>th</sup> December”. The following address was approved and directed to be read by the Town Clerk

“Address from the Town Commissioners of Bantry to Mr Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa on the occasion of his visit to Bantry on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 1904.

Dear Sir, on behalf of the people of Bantry whom I represent we bid you a hearty welcome to our town, and we feel certain in so doing we are voicing the sentiments of all true nationalists in it. Your life long devotion to the cause you have at heart – the cause of your country, the sufferings you have endured in British dungeons in furtherance of that cause mark your name for a foremost place in the roll of Irishmen who fought and suffered for Ireland.

The methods of righting the wrongs of your country which led to your incarceration in British dungeons differ from the methods of today but it is now clearly admitted, and by distinguished Irishmen that it was the unselfish patriotism of you and your colleagues that cleared the way for the present constitutional movement which we trust will result in the overthrow and downfall of Landlordism in this country and the restoration of a native Parliament.

We beg to tender to you our congratulations on the excellent health you enjoy at your advanced age despite your prison treatment and the efforts of your British friends to wreck it and we hope that for many years you will be spared to serve the land you love so well, the land that gave you birth but from which you were so long an enforced exile.

Signed on behalf of the Board

Daniel Donovan Chairman

John O’Callaghan Town Clerk

AGM on 23 January 1905 – no quorum – Lyons, O’Connor and Leary attended. It was agreed “That the meeting do stand adjourned for twelve months”.

In March 1905 they decided to request the Watchman to resign as they felt he was not doing his job in watching the town satisfactorily and had not explained why he had bought so many lamp glasses. They agreed to dispense with his services in April and advertise the job. Then

Mr Collins came before the April Meeting and having heard his explanation they decided to continue his services at 14/0 per week.

Also in April 1905 there was unanimous agreement to open negotiations with the Local Government Board for the purpose of acquiring by lease or purchase the vacant portion of the Workhouse field which is not required by the Workhouse. This would be suitable for erection of artisan houses and cottages. By October they agreed to take a lease of the plot of ground from the Local Government Board and asked that the transfer be completed as soon as possible. At the same meeting they resolved to seek £2,000 from the Local Government Board to build houses on the ground and to increase their rating powers to secure the repayments.

In July 1905 the new Rate Collector, Daniel Linehan, was being threatened over his collections. Also in July they requested to be notified of all cases of obstruction on the streets and sidewalks so offenders could be prosecuted. A letter from the Watchman for an increase in wages to 18s was marked "read".

In November 1905 they agreed to ask Mr M. A. Hennessy, Architect, to survey the Workhouse field, prepare plans and specifications for the erection of 20 cottages and total cost not to exceed £2,000. For this work plus supervision he would be paid 2½%. In the event of the plans not being approved or the works proceeding he would be paid £3 3s 0d for his services.

AGM on 23 January 1906, (4 present). Daniel O'Donovan was elected Chairman and Michael O'Driscoll as Vice-Chairman.

A letter from Secretary General of the Post Office saying the costs of a new post office were high and they did not wish to stand in the way of the Commissioners disposing of the premises as they might think fit.

There was a further request to the Bantry Rural District Council to proceed with urinals as previously requested by the Commissioners.

In February and March the plans etc from Mr Hennessy, Architect, were discussed and amendments sought.

In August 1906 they resolved to apply to Local Government for an increased loan of £2,300 for the cottages. A reply was read at the Sept meeting stating that the Board was appointing an Inspector, Mr A.D. Price, to hold an inquiry on 13 September at 11.45am in the Bantry Workhouse.

Letters were being written to the Commissioners by the Watchman re damaged lamps and again the Rate collector under threat. In October the Commissioners called a Special meeting for 10 October to check the Rate Collectors list of irrecoverable rates and failed to get a quorum for the meeting (this was not uncommon)

In October the Local Government Board notified that only 10 cottages were to be built and these to face South - the plans to be amended accordingly. At their meeting of 3 December 1906, a telegram was received from Mr Hennessy saying he would forward plans by evening train.

1907, the AGM where Daniel O'Donovan was elected Chairman and Michael O'Driscoll as Vice-Chairman.

Cottage plans were again for revision in February. Mr Hennessy sought a payment of £10 on account but this was deferred until the loan was obtained.

The Lamplighter was under threat at this time. A request was sent to CIE that the train leaving Cork for Bantry at 4.15pm would instead leave at 6.00pm.

A further request for urinals in town was made and no quorum was a feature a few times.

A letter was received from the Local Government Board asking for £10 14s 6d for expenses incurred in processing the loan for the cottages. The loan was for £1,300 under the revised plans.

On 1 July it was, agreed, on a majority vote, to dispense with the services of the Watchman until 1 October; then on 1 October it was agreed that the lamplighter to light lamps without delay at 14s a week.

Again for 1908 Daniel O'Donovan was elected Chairman and Michael O'Driscoll as Vice-Chairman.

Paperwork was being exchanged with Local Government Board re loan and draft leases.

Lack of a quorum resulted in no meetings taking place for a few months as follows:

Meeting for 6 April adjourned to 13 April

No quorum on 13 Apr so meeting adjourned to 4 May

On 4 May, no quorum; adjourned to 11 May

And on 11 May – no quorum; adjourned to 18 May

18 May – no quorum – adjourned generally.

Monthly meeting of 1 June was adjourned to 8<sup>th</sup> June as there was not a quorum

On 8<sup>th</sup> June, again no quorum so adjourned to 12 June

24 July 1908 – at this meeting Mr E.D. Storer attended to outline options for electric lighting in the town. After discussion it was agreed to offer a sum of £80 a year for lighting the town. The number of lamps was not to be less than 60 and at least 20 to be arc lamps and of a substantial candle power. The Commissioners to get the necessary permission to open up the streets for laying cables and to let portion of the Bridewell premises at a reasonable rent as a power station, and not to negotiate with any other person or company for six months.

3 attempts for a meeting in Aug failed due to no quorum.

13 November 1908. The meeting recorded a vote of sympathy on the death of Daniel Joseph O'Donovan who was a member since its formation and Chairman for the past 7 years.

4 January 1909 meeting where Denis Downey was unanimously co-opted to replace Daniel Donovan

They had to renew the loan application for £1,300 for the cottages project.

Mr O'Driscoll was unanimously appointed as Chairman and Mr McCarthy as Vice-Chairman.

5 July when the Clerk directed to advertise for tenders for the erection of the labourers cottages and to advertise in Independent, Cork County Eagle and Southern Star. At the meeting on 9 August only one tender was received for the erection of the cottages from William J Kelleher, Drinan Street, Cork for £1,360 for buildings alone excluding sewerage. This was considered excessive and Clerk directed to readvertise in the Cork Examiner and Eagle and Star newspapers. In September only one tender again from Mr Kelleher for £1,350 excluding a large sum for sewerage. A subcommittee was agreed to review plans and reduce costs. In November £500 as first instalment of the loan was received for Cottages project

In December Mr Hennessy, Architect had died and a letter from M/s M.J. Horgan & Sons, Solicitors for the representatives of the late Mr Hennessy seeking payment of £31 10s 0d due to Mr Hennessy on his contract with the Commissioners was read.

On 3 January 1910 the Commissioners agreed to pay £10 to Mr James Flynn, Solr., to discharge his account for £10 9s 0d furnished.

AGM on 24 January – Chairman elected was Mr O'Driscoll, Vice-Chairman was Mr McCarthy.

At the meeting on 10 May the Clerk was directed to advertise for qualified engineers or architects to propose or amend plans for the erection of 10 labourers cottages in Bantry. On the 20 May five tenders were received. After a long discussion it was agreed to readvertise and to include the cost of each house not to exceed £110. On 6 June six Engineers had applied from Macroom, Dublin, Dublin, Timoleague, Bantry and Cork. The tender of Kearns, Roche of 70 South Mall, Cork @ 1.5% on outlay was accepted.

On 8 August the plans were returned by LGB to increase size of the bedrooms.

At the meeting on 3 October the Clerk, Mr J O'Callaghan, was directed to vacate the Bridewell. At that meeting it was resolved "that we the Town Commissioners of Bantry request our Clerk, Mr O'Callaghan, to instruct Mr J. T. Wolfe, Solrs, to recover possession of the Bridewell premises from Mr John O'Callaghan, the said Town Clerk".

A letter at the 8 November meeting from Mr Wolfe asked for the original lease of the Bridewell premises. The Clerk reported that he believed it was in the possession of the solicitor to the County Council. There were not any resolutions in the books that he was aware of but anyone could check them. Gilhooly proposed and O'Connor seconded "that we take the opinion of Mr J. T. Wolfe solicitor as to the proper legal steps to be taken to terminate the office of Mr John O'Callaghan as Clerk of this Board owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which he has discharged his duties".

On Saturday 12 November at the meeting it was unanimously agreed "that our Clerk, Mr O'Callaghan, having this day offered to pay the rent due by him for the grazing of the Workhouse field held from the Commissioners and to give up possession of the said field this evening that we accept the same and appoint Mr R. Kelly, T.C. to take over possession thereof on behalf of the Commissioners".

The Clerk undertaking to give over possession of the Bridewell premises on 5<sup>th</sup> December (the date of our next meeting) the Commissioners agreed to accept same on that date.

The Clerk was directed to have posters put up advertising the grazing of the Workhouse field from week to week. Tenders to be considered at the next meeting.

R. Kelly was seldom recorded as attending over recent years.

At the meeting of 5 December the Clerk handed over the key of the Bridewell. The proposal of Timothy McCarthy of New St to rent the Workhouse field @ 2s 4d per week was accepted.

It was also resolved that we deeply regret the death of Mr William O'Callaghan the son of our respected Town Clerk Mr O'Callaghan and tender to him and family our deepest sympathy in his great bereavement".

Meeting of the 22 December to receive proposals from Mr Patrick Nugent as to the lighting of the town by electricity. Proposals were:-

Proposal 1: 50 lights of 25 candle power each £100 and 10 lights of 100 candle power each £ 50. Total £150 a year. To be reduced when 500 lights installed in private houses by £50 a year and when 1000 such lights are installed by £100 a year.

Proposal 2: to light the town with 35 lights of 50 candle power each at cost of £105 and 5 lights of 100 candle power each at £25. Total £130

Proposal 3: to light the town with 35 lights of 50 candle power each at cost of £122 10s 0d

Proposal 4: to light the town with 40 lights of 25 candle power each and 10 lights of 50 candle power each at total cost of £100 a year.

Consideration of this was adjourned to the next meeting on 2 Jan 1911. However on that date there was not a quorum present.

From a meeting on 6 January we read "A bill of Denis O'Shea for 5/- for repairing a street lamp. Order that Clerk pay 4/- to discharge same"

Mr P Nugent was present and public lighting was discussed. The Commissioners agreed to pay £130 a year for 50 lamps – 10 lamps of 100 candle power, 20 lamps of 50 candle power, 20 lamps of 25 candle power each.

AGM on 23 January 1911 and Michael Driscoll was elected as Chairman and John McCarthy as Vice Chairman. On the motion of Mr O'Connor, seconded by Mr Kelly it was resolved "that we agree to the terms which we have discussed with Mr Patrick Nugent, and agreed on with him, for the public lighting of the town of Bantry at a rent of £130 a year, to be reduced to £100 a year when the gross revenue from all sources derived by Mr Nugent from electric power in the Town (exclusive of the £130 above mentioned) reaches £600. To be further reduced to £75 a year when such revenue reached £900, and to be further reduced to £50 a year when such gross revenue reaches £1,200 a year. The Town to be lighted by 50 lamps – 10 of 100 candle power each, 20 of 50 candle power each and 20 of 25 candle power each. Any additional lamps that may be required to be supplied at £2.10.0 per year for each lamp of 50 candle power. That a lease be prepared for a term of 20 years, the rent to be payable half yearly and the lease to contain penalty clauses in default of proper lighting for at least an average of six hours each night. The lamps to be put up in such positions as the Commissioners may point out" Mr J Travers Wolfe, Solrs, instructed to prepare the necessary documents.

Then on 6 February “The Clerk was directed to write to Mr Wolfe, Solicitor and ask him to forward without delay the draft contract with Mr Nugent”

On 28 February a meeting at which Mr Wolfe, solicitor for the Town Commissioners was present and also Mr Nugent and his solicitor, Mr Flynn. “The terms of arrangement re the lighting of the town and leasing of portion of Bridewell premises as a site for a Power House were discussed at length and Mr Wolfe got instructions to prepare the necessary documents and advertisements to carry out same”.

On 21 March a meeting was held at which Mr Nugent and Mr Flynn were present. Mr Flynn made several objections to the terms of agreement proposed. As matters were being discussed the meeting ended when Mr O’Leary left the meeting. Then a Special meeting on 7 Apr to discuss lighting where Mr Nugent offered to give new proposals in two weeks.

On 3 July 1911 an Agreement was signed with Mr Nugent for Electric lighting. It was signed on behalf of the Commissioners by the Chairman, Mr O’Driscoll, Mr Gilhooly and Mr O’Connor. Mr Nugent also signed and the signatures were witnesses by the Clerk and by Mr James Flynn, Solicitor for Mr Nugent.

The Commissioners decided to advertise portion of the Bridewell premises facing Wolfe Tone Square of depth 60 feet. Applicants were invited to apply stating rent per foot frontage they would pay. Henry Breen offered 8s per foot frontage per year and he required about 26 feet on a lease of at least 160 years. His offer was accepted.

Again failure of a quorum for meetings was noted.

In September they decided to advertise for tenders for building artisan houses and consider them at the next meeting. In October two tenders were received for building artisan dwellings, viz. W. J. Murphy & Sons, New St, Bantry for £1,480 0s 0d and Messrs Barrett Bros, Magazine Rd, Cork for £1,294 0s 0d. The latter was accepted subject to any of the joinery not being imported and they employ local trade and labour.

Patrick Sullivan was directed to have the store in Main St repaired and painted and to provide a new lock with 6 keys for same and to remove the fire hose into the store.

23 January 1912 at the AGM Michael O’Driscoll was unanimously elected as Chairman and John McCarthy as Vice Chairman. Also present:

Daniel D Canty  
Denis Downey  
Robert Kelly  
Daniel Lyons  
John McCarthy  
Michael Minehane  
Benjamin O’Connor

Correspondence with District Inspector re nuisances on streets was read. It stated “A Letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1911 was read from District Inspector Turnbull acknowledging receipt of Clerk’s letter of 21<sup>st</sup> Dec sending him copy of resolution of the Commissioners of 7 Feb 1910 re nuisances on streets, and pointing out that the Police had from time to time prosecuted in

such cases, but that no amount of prosecutions would stop the nuisance so long as the Magistrates continue to put nominal fines on offenders”

Independent Newspapers refused to accept a cheque for £4 10 0d in settlement of account of £4 16s 0d. A new Paying Order was issued for the full amount. The Southern Star refused to accept £1 15s 0d to settle an account of £3 16s 0d – “no order was made on the matter”  
“A Paying order was directed to the Eagle Limited for £7.10.0 to discharge account for printing etc furnished at £10.18.0”

They agreed to sign the contract with Messrs Barrett Bros for erection of the artisan dwellings.

Clerk to inform Mr Nugent, Electric light contractor the lighting times as:  
“From lighting up time as prescribed by the Lights on Vehicles Acts until 12 o’clock midnight, and on February Cattle Fair morning from 6 o’clock am to 7.30 o’clock am”

“The Clerk was directed to have the Watchman and Lamplighter take down and store in the old Bridewell premises all the old oil lamps, posts and brackets”

In June the Clerk was to instruct Mr Nugent that he was to cease lighting the public lamps until further notice. They agreed to pay the first instalment to contractors for artisan dwellings of £250.

A meeting scheduled for 5 Aug and no Commissioner attended.

Work was at a standstill on artisan dwellings so letters being exchanged between the clerk of works, Engineer and Contractor. The work later proceeded with dwellings and the delay was due to “private trouble” in contractor’s family. £200 more was paid to the contractor. Then on December the 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment of £250 paid to the contractor for houses.

Commissioners agreed that the old street lamps be advertised for sale in the Southern Star.

Applications were now being made by people for artisan houses.

1913 AGM - Michael O’Driscoll elected as Chairman and John McCarthy as Vice Chairman and both were unanimous.

The bill for electric light from 27 Jan 1912 to 31 Jan 1913 was for £45 for 3991½ units.

There was a lot of correspondence re housing and inspections and work ongoing. The Contractor was complaining about the delay in paying him £100. At the October they finally agreed the houses were finished. The Rent was fixed at 2s 6d per week with the tenants to pay the rates and the Commissioners to pay the water rent. By December some tenants were complaining about the houses – one said a part of the ceiling had fallen and another that the toilet was continually flushing.

Sympathy was expressed at the July meeting on the death of Miss Mary Gilhooly daughter of Commissioner James Gilhooly. At the October meeting sympathy was expressed on the death of Daniel D Canty. In December Mr T. J. McCarthy of Main St was co-opted.

1914, the AGM – Mr Michael O’Driscoll was elected as Chairman and John McCarthy as Vice Chairman. They were elected unanimously.

No quorum again at times was noted and there was much correspondence re tenants, final accounts on houses and with the Local Government Board.

On 2 November the Commissioners decided to let portions of the Bridewell premises in portions to be marked out and the Clerk was directed to have posters printed inviting tenders for same. On 16 November the tenders were considered for the Bridewell and the following accepted:-

Jeremiah McCarthy, Victualler, New St @ 8s 0d per foot frontage and house not to be less than 3 storeys high;

Henry Breen of Barrack St @ 8s 0d per foot frontage and again not less than 3 storeys high house;

Then at 7 December Meeting, Michael Hazel of Reenrour tendered @ 8s 0d per foot frontage for part of Bridewell and this was similarly accepted. A vote of sympathy on death of late Commissioner John McCarthy was passed.

On 4 January 1915, Mr David O’Mahony was co-opted in place of John McCarthy. Tender from Miss Eileen McCarthy of Rock House @ 8s 0d per foot frontage for portion of the Bridewell premises was accepted subject to 3 storey house being built.

AGM – Chairman elected was Michael O’Driscoll and Vice Chairman was Robert Kelly.

An Agreement with Mr Nugent for lighting for a further 3 years was passed and a Tender from Mary A Boucher for part of Bridewell property @ 8s 0d was accepted as in earlier ones. At the March 1915 Meeting the Clerk was directed to get “Mr Nugent to take down meter in office so as to save rent of same while light not being used”.

3 January 1916 at which a vote of sympathy was passed on the death of colleague, Mr Daniel Lyons.

AGM - Chairman was Michael O’Driscoll and Vice Chairman was Robert Kelly.

In February, Mr John Levis, Main St was unanimously co-opted. Paying orders and letters were common at all meetings, especially from Local Government Board.

July 1916 and the Clerk sought a wage increase. Mr O’Connor proposed and Mr McCarthy seconded an increase of £3 per annum. D Downey, R Kelly and J Levis spoke against and the Chairman did not put the proposal and “it fell through”

On 14 August 1916 the Clerk reported that Mr Michael Minehane was disqualified as a member of the Town Commissioners by reason of his non attendance at a meeting of that Body for over six months. The Clerk was directed to write to Mr Minehane and see if he had any excuse. He was at the next meeting (October as there was no September meeting) but his excuse is not recorded. A November meeting was not held either.

In December a letter was received postponing elections of Town Commissioners for another year.

Mr John Gilhooly was unanimously co-opted in place of his late father, James

23 January 1917: AGM result as Chairman, Michael O'Driscoll and Vice Chairman was Robert Kelly

In May the Commissioners expressed sympathy on the death of Mr Nugent, contractor for the lighting. There were ongoing repairs to artisan houses.

In October the Clerk reported that 2 Commissioners – John Gilhooly & Michael Minehane were disqualified as they had not attended meetings. The Clerk was instructed to write for excuses, if any. In November Mr Gilhooly said he was very busy with extra work as Clerk of the Union and extra work from Medical Officers. Mr Minehane said he was ill – both excuses were accepted. Also Clerk said books and documents “were going bad” due to lack of heating. The Commissioners agreed to order an electric heater from Ms. Murphy & O'Connor who were getting some for their own offices.

Special Meeting resolved to “hold Bantry Cattle, Sheep and Horse Fairs on the First Friday of every month commencing on first Friday in January 1918, and the pig fairs on the preceding Thursday”

1918 AGM elected Chairman was Michael O'Driscoll and Vice Chairman was Robert Kelly. The Clerk was to advertise for a contractor for the public lighting for another 3 years. And in March the tender from the reps. of Mr Nugent submitted a tender which was accepted. No May or June meetings took place

Meeting on 21 October 1918 and the Commissioners expressed their sympathy on death of Benjamin O'Connor:

“That we the Town Commissioners of Bantry at our first meeting since the death of our valued and esteemed colleague, Mr Benjamin O'Connor J.P., who since the formation of this Board has been a Member of it, and its first Chairman, desire to place on record an expression of the deep loss we as well as the public of the town in general, have sustained by his death and we beg to tender to his relatives our sincere sympathy in their bereavement and, as a slight token of our regret we adjourn this meeting”

No more meetings took place in 1918. On 23 January 1919 the AGM took place and elected were Michael O'Driscoll as Chairman and Robert Kelly as Vice Chairman. On 7 April, Denis Downey tendered his resignation as he found it inconvenient to continue as a Commissioner.

On 7 July a deputation was received from Bantry Traders Association:

“A deputation from Bantry Traders Association waited on the Commissioners with reference to the obstruction caused on the public streets by parties selling clothes etc thereon on Fair Days and asking the aid of the Commissioners to prevent this.” The Clerk was to seek legal advice from Mr Wolfe, Solicitor.

On 8 August the following were co-opted unanimously:- Jeremiah Connolly and Michael Breen. Daniel Linehan resigned as Rate Collector and the job to be advertised.

In September 1919 the Commissioners were complaining about the late delivery of post from the Post Office; noting “the delivery to the main streets of the town is as late as 10.30am.”

There were differences of opinion with the Nugent accounts for lighting and the Commissioners saying the contract was not fully complied with; there was a money reduction.

AGM on 30 January 1920

James Clarke  
Jeremiah Connolly  
Timothy Donoghue  
Abraham F Good  
Robert Kelly  
Raphael P. Keyes  
Robert Lynch  
Charles O'Donovan  
Jeremiah O'Leary

Robert Lynch was elected as Chairman and James Clarke as Vice Chairman

Mr Thomas C Linehan was appointed Rate Collector but still in trouble with Nugent accounts and counterclaim for loss of light.

March meeting was at 7.30pm and there were ongoing disputes over the Nugent invoice and Mrs Nugent attended the March meeting. Finally she agreed to accept £65 to discharge the account for lighting to 1 March 1920 (half year). They then agreed to a new 1 year contract with Mrs Nugent for lighting @£150 for the year.

A motion to change meeting time to 7.30 pm failed but in May they agreed that meetings will be at 7.30pm. Still alot of correspondence from Local Government Board and circulars at meetings.

In August 1920, James Clarke gave notices of motion to be considered at September meeting to change existing street names as below or as otherwise agreed by the Commissioners:

<b><u>Present Name</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Name</u></b>
Barrack St	McCurtain St
Main St	Pearse St
New St	Connolly St
William St	Plunkett St
High St	O'Rahilly St
Chapel St	Kent St
Market St	Larkin St
Blackrock Rd	Skeffington Road
Scart Rd	McDonagh Rd
Glengarriff Rd	DeValera Rd
Barrack Rd	Crowleys Rd
Bridge St	McNeill St
Marino St	Thomas Ashe St
Church Rd	McDermott Road
Tower St	Clarke St

Meeting of 1 November 1920 attended by Robert Lynch (Chairman), James Clarke, Timothy Donoghue, A. F. Good, Robert Kelly, Charles O'Donovan and Jeremiah O'Leary. Mrs Mary Nugent also attended.

“Her accounts for public lighting up to and including 31<sup>st</sup> October ult which were furnished at £66.4.6 were discussed at length and eventually a paying order for £60 was passed to her in full discharge of same.

A long discussion also took place on the question of future lighting and the terms of same in which Mrs Nugent agreed to supply current for public lighting at 9d per unit and to supply and keep in repair lamps, wiring etc. On the motion of Mr Kelly seconded by Mr Good the following resolution was unanimously adopted *‘Resolved that as Mrs Nugent is agreeable to supply the public lighting of the Town at the rate of 9d per unit for each unit consumed and the supply and renewal of all lamps (50 in number) and all necessary wiring and repairs the Town Clerk is directed to communicate with her Manager with the view of having the Town lighting continued on that basis. Mrs Nugent to provide and keep in good order a proper meter for checking the consumption. The hours of lighting to be from the lighting up time shown by Guys Almanac until 12 o’clock midnight with the addition of December and January Fair mornings and Christmas Day morning the time for lighting on which due notices will be given. A proper agreement to be entered into carrying out this arrangement’*”

We now enter a period where meetings were scheduled but failed to take place because of a quorum not in attendance. Dates were as follows:-

In 1920 on 1 Nov, 6 Dec, 13 Dec

In 1921 on 3 Jan, 10 Jan, 31 Jan and it was to be the AGM,

On 7 February the AGM took place and James Clarke was elected as Chairman and Timothy Donoghue as Vice Chairman.

No quorum again for following proposed meetings:

2 May, 9 May, 6 June, 13 June, 20 June, 4 July, 11 July, 1 August, 8 August

A meeting did take place on 16 August at which there were several circulars.

At the meeting on 5 December a bill was received from Mrs Nugent for £72 3s 0d for units of electricity used to end of Nov (491 units consumed for month £18 8s 3d and a balance of £53 14s 9d). A sum of £60 was passed to her on account.

Now into 1922 and meetings failed to happen due to lack of a quorum on 30 January which was to be the AGM. No quorum either on 6 Feb, 13 Feb, 6 Mar, and 3 Apr.

On 10 April the AGM took place with James Clarke elected as Chairman and Timothy Donoghue as Vice Chairman.

Passed £50 to Mary Nugent on account for public lighting, and £20 to John O’Callaghan as years salary.

A vote of sympathy was passed on the death of Jeremiah Connolly, and meeting adjourned as a mark of respect.

In May 1922 an account from Mrs Nugent for lighting of £ 50 12s 3d and consideration deferred. Later on 17 May a bill for public lighting was considered and Clerk was directed to inform Mrs Nugent to “cease public lighting until further order”.

Again we enter into a period of meetings failing to take place because of a quorum not being in attendance. The dates in 1922 were:-

5 June, 12 June, 20 June, 3 July, 7 Aug, 11 Aug, 4 September, 11 September, 18 September, 2 Oct, 6 Nov, 16 Nov, 4 Dec

And continuing into 1923 meetings failed on:-  
1 Jan, 15 Jan, 5 Feb, 12 Feb, 22 Feb, 5 Mar, 12 Mar and 19 Mar

On 23 March 1923 Philip Harrington of Geroges Lane was unanimously co-opted in place of Mr Connolly.

“An account was received from Mrs Nugent for public lighting up to and including 31 Oct 1922 when her term ceased amounting to £73 11s 3d was read and considered. A paying order was directed to issue to her for £50 on account.”

“An account was also received from the Bantry Electrical Supply Co. (successors of Mrs Nugent) for public lighting up to and including 28 Feb 1923 amounting to £82 9s 0d. A paying order for £50 on account was directed to issue to them”

16 April an account was received from Bantry Electrical Supply Co for £49 17s 0d for public lighting to 31 March 1923. A paying order was issued for £20 on account of same.

Again several meetings were adjourned because of a quorum not being in attendance.

On 17 October an account from Bantry Electrical Supply Co for £ 29 8s 3d to 1 Oct and paying order issued for £20 on account. In November “A Paying order passed for Bantry Electrical Supply Co for £9 8s 3d for public lighting to 30 Sept leaving £14 10s 3d due for month of October”.

The Rent Collector and Rate Collector seemed to be frequently under threat. Daniel Linehan was collector of Artisan rents and he had no rent book so at the Nov meeting he was directed to collect rents immediately. Mr Thomas C Linehan resigned as Rate Collector on 4 December and the Clerk was directed to advertise for a Collector by posters and appointment to be made at next meeting.

7 Jan 1924 and Mark Sullivan of Main St was selected from 3 applicants as Rate collector. An account was received from Mrs Nugent for the sum of £23 11s 3d for electric lighting due to her before the Bantry Electrical Supply Company took over the works. A paying order for £20 was passed to her in full discharge of account. Bantry Electrical Supply Co account for £39 7s 6d for public lighting to 31 Dec. “write for particulars of units and demand a meter to enable us to check account” was the response.

In April an account was received from Bantry Electrical Supply Co for £98 17s 0d. The Clerk to inform the Manager that the Commissioners refuse to pay the amount until a proper meter is put in and to cease public lighting from 1 May until further notice.

Local elections fixed for 15 July 1924.

May; Bantry Electrical Supply Co threatening legal proceedings if account not paid. A Paying Order was directed to issue on account for £60. Public lighting resumed on 16 Aug 1924. The Clerk directed to arrange a meeting with Mr Goulding of Bantry Electrical Supply Co and Commissioners agreed on cost of £130 per annum, payable monthly. In March 1925 Bantry Electrical Supply Co is in receivership

On 20 July 1925 the AGM took place at which James Clarke was elected Chairman and Timothy Donoghue was elected Vice Chairman.

In September a motion declaring Mr Good's seat vacant since he had not attended meetings for well over 6 months was unanimously passed. Mr Patrick O'Keeffe, New St was unanimously agreed to fill the vacancy.

In November the Clerk was directed to put up posters for a collector of rents in artisans and in December Michael Tighe, ex RIC Constable, of Glengarriff Road was accepted as rent collector.

An account from Bantry Electrical Supply Co for £39 was before the meeting. A letter explaining the weakness in power was not accepted but it was agreed to issue a paying order for £39.

The AGM scheduled for 30 January 1926 did not take place due to no quorum in attendance. It did take place on 5 February and James Clarke was elected Chairman and Timothy Donoghue as Vice Chairman. A Paying order was issued to Bantry Electrical Supply Co for £13 for the month of January. On 3 May they paid the Receiver of Bantry Electrical Supply Co £39 for public lighting to 30 April and lights to be discontinued until further notice. Complaints were received from artisan tenants re state of repairs of houses.

The AGM scheduled for 31 January 1927 was adjourned as no quorum. On 7 February elected were Chairman: James Clarke and Vice Chairman: Timothy Donoghue.

In March it was unanimously agreed to grant a licence under the Cinematograph Act 1909 to Mr John M Murphy of Reenrour House to "exhibit pictures by electric light in his hall or cinema situate in or adjoining Wolfe Tome Square up to and including 20th March 1928"

From May to September no meeting was recorded and unlikely any held.

In November it was resolved "that we request the Bantry Electrical Supply Co to reduce the price of current to private consumers from 11d per unit to 7d per unit and the price of the public lighting from £130 to £100 per annum". A Paying order issued to Bantry Electrical Supply Co for lighting for April, May, Aug, Sept at £52. After a long discussion they agreed to pay an extra £10 a year for lighting extensions to Newtown Cross and to the old pier.

In December 1927 an application by Mr Michael O'Callaghan for renewal of a cinematograph licence to exhibit pictures by electric light at the Rock Cinema was granted. A Paying order for £26 issued to Bantry Electrical Supply Co for lighting for Oct, Nov.

March 1928 (no previous meetings held), an application for renewal of cinematograph licence from Mr John Murphy for the "Stella Cinema" was granted.

July 1928 an AGM held:

James Clarke  
Edward Cotter  
Robert Kelly  
Charles O'Donovan  
Mortimer O'Sullivan  
Robert Lynch  
Mark Sullivan  
Raphael P. Keyes  
Michael McCarthy

Chairman: James Clarke

At the meeting in January 1929 prices sought for fire hoses.  
The next was in May and the main business was dealing with paying orders and circulars.  
After May the next meeting was in September. Robert Lynch was absent for over 6 months from meetings; he was working as a baker in Newcastlewest. The Clerk to write to him asking him to resign his position. In October Robert Lynch wrote saying he would not resign his position.

18 November was a Special Meeting to record sympathy on death of Mr James Clarke.  
Twice in December meetings failed due to a quorum not being present.

January 1930, acknowledgment of sympathy from Mrs Margaret Clarke of Barrack St. On 3 February Mr John O'Sullivan N.T. of Chapel St was co-opted to fill the Clarke vacancy. They declared the seat of Robert Lynch vacant (his last recorded attendance was 6 July 1928). The Clerk to notify Mr Lynch.

“The Clerk was directed to engage the services of Mr Robert Kelly B.E. to prepare plans &c of new offices”

In March Mr Denis O'Connell, Glengarriff Rd was unanimously co-opted in lieu of Robert Lynch.

Robert Kelly presented rough plans of new offices and fire appliances shelter which were approved.

June - The Clerk was directed to communicate with the Civic Guards to regulate traffic on Fair Days to prevent congestion and also cattle on footpaths.

Clerk to employ a competent person re blocked sewer at artisans.

25 June AGM

Chairman: Raphael P Keyes; Vice Chairman: Robert Kelly M.C.C.

The Clerk reported he had employed Daniel McCarthy to deal with the sewer. Mr McCarthy reported that the fall in part was the wrong way. The Clerk then to engage the services of Mr Robert Kelly B.E. to examine and report on the matter.

The tenants were complaining about repairs to houses.

“A discussion took place as to the speed at which motors went through the Town when it was decided to restrict the speed to twelve miles per hour. The Clerk was directed to employ Frederick Coleman, Carpenter, to have Boards, with Notices to this effect printed thereon made, and erected on the principal entrances to the Town, Viz. The Abbey Road, The Glengarriff Road, and the Quarry Road.”

In July a quorum was not present.

In August a report was received from the Committee on repairs to Artizans and this given to Mr Robert Kelly B.E. to inspect and make out specifications and estimate with a view to advertising for a contractor.

It was agreed to pay Frederick Coleman £4 10s 0d – his bill for the speed limit signs.

1 Sept and the Clerk was directed to put up “small hand bills” inviting tenders for repairs to artisans.

On 15 September two (2) tenders were received – neither considered in order; the Clerk to write to both – Patrick Casey, Rope Walk and James Cotter, Scart Rd – asking them to put in amended tenders.

In October a tender was received from James J Cotter for £36 and P.C. sum of £5 for flashing, £6 for new range and £2 2s 0d for new water tank. Tender accepted.

March 1931 – A letter from Bantry Vocational Education sub-committee “That a serious need exists in this town for a properly equipped School for Vocational Education we hereby make application to the Town Commissioners for a site for such a school free of charge, together with any building material; in the way of stones &c in the possession of the Commissioners” It was unanimously agreed to comply and offer part of the Bridewell property.

Mark O’Sullivan was caretaker of Fire appliances

6 July AGM

Chairman: Raphael Keyes; Vice Chairman: Robert Kelly

In September the Commissioners decided “to interview Superintendent Brady” with a view to prosecuting hawkers for obstruction.

At this time residents were seeking extra lights.

1932

Applications received for licenses to store petrol from John Crowley, rere of Wolfe Tone Square; Mary O’Sullivan of Main St for premises on Quay and John M Murphy of Main St for premises on Market Lane. All granted

For months of February, March and April – no quorum present so no meetings took place.

On 25 July 1932 resolved: “That the Commissioners engage Mr R. Kelly, Junior, B.E. to prepare plans for the building of ten four roomed cottages in the Commissioners plot”

At the meeting of 19 August decided to advertise for Contractors for the building of a new Town Commissioners room as per plans prepared by Mr R Kelly B.E. One advert to be placed in the Cork Examiner of 24<sup>th</sup> August.

On 29 August the AGM was held. Chairman: R Keyes and Vice Chairman: Robert Kelly.

At the meeting on 5 September three (3) tenders received for the construction of new Offices and garage for the fire appliances as follows:-

John O’Shea, Bantry £380. 0. 0

Michael O’Donovan, The Square, Bantry £347. 10s. 0d

Frederick J Coleman, Marino St, Bantry £320. 0. 0.

The latter was accepted and on 12 September the Contract was signed.

On 19 December the Clerk was directed to advertise for tenders for the erection of 8 dwellings in the Workhouse field.

In 1933 no January or February meeting was held due to lack of a quorum.

On 6 March 1933 two (2) tenders received for houses, viz:-

John J O’Sullivan, Reendesert, Bantry

John O’Shea, Builder & Contractor, Bantry

	<u>Mass Concrete</u>	<u>Concrete blocks</u>	<u>Stone &amp; Mortar</u>
O’Sullivan	£2153.10.5	£2261.13.5	£2391.10.5
O’Shea	£2368.3.0	£2518.10.0	£2678.12.0

The tender of Mr O’Sullivan for stone & mortar walls was accepted since the Commissioners believed “it would give more employment locally”

The Commissioners agreed and paid Mrs Catherine McCarthy of Rock House £20 for a plot of ground as a passageway to the artisan dwellings.

At the meeting on 6 November 1933 the Clerk resigned due to defective eyesight after 37 years service. As he could not read correspondence his resignation was accepted with regret. Miss Mary O’Callaghan, daughter of retiring Town Clerk was appointed as temporary Town Clerk pending the filling of the vacancy by the Appointments Commissioners.

“The Chairman was requested to advise the Minister for Local Government on these matter”

For his work on the new offices Mr R Kelly presented his account for £17 and he was given £16 in full and final settlement.

21 Nov 1933, AGM and elected were Chairman: R Keyes with Robert Kelly as Vice Chairman. The Commissioners were:

Raphael P. Keyes  
Edward Cotter  
Robert Kelly  
Charles O’Donovan  
Mortimer O’Sullivan  
Mark Sullivan  
Michael McCarthy  
Denis O’Connell  
John O’Sullivan

At a meeting on 4 December a letter from the Local Government saying John O’Callaghan was not a full-time employee so not entitled to a pension or gratuity. The Commissioners wrote back to the Minister “that we respectfully request the Minister for Local Government to specially reconsider the application made for Pension or Retiring Allowance by us on behalf of Mr J. O’Callaghan, our late Town Clerk, recently resigned. When he resigned we were under the impression that he was eligible for a pension – so was himself – otherwise he would have tried to continue in office and die *‘in harness’*”

They decided to use peat instead of coal for heating the Commissioners offices.

In May the final certificate saying the 8 houses were completed and they Commissioners decided to let the houses as follows:

- 1 John Begley, Scart Rd
- 2 Denis Keohane, Market Sr
- 3 Julia Hunt, Chapel St
- 4 Daniel O’Driscoll, Chapel St
- 5 Jeremiah Spillane, Market St

6 Percival Deane, Chapel St  
7 Patrick Cronin, New Lane, off Main St

The houses to be named “Keyes’s Terrace”

Three houses were not let so these were let to

6 Alexander Gibbons

7 Robert Dennis

3 Mrs Cremin

Robert Dennis declined the offer and the house was let to Patrick Harrington, Blackrock Rd

6 July AGM and elected were Chairman: Robert Kelly and Vice Chairman: Senator Raphael Keyes

Commissioners listed were:

Raphael P. Keyes

Edward Cotter

Robert Kelly

Jerome Cotter

William Sullivan

Charles O’Donovan (Main St)

Thomas McCarthy

Mortimer Sullivan

Charles O’Donovan (William St)

At the meeting on 3 September a letter was received from the Local Appointments Commission recommending Miss Mary Margaret O’Callaghan as Town Clerk. She was unanimously appointed to the position.

In October a letter from the ESB stating the Board had under investigation the possibility of making Shannon Current available in Bantry. In November they decided to complain to CIE re slow travelling of trains on Cork – Bantry line.

In May 1935 the following resolution to be sent to the Minister for Agriculture

“That we the Bantry Town Commissioners desire to draw the attention of the Minister for Agriculture to the erection of several creameries in this district with stores attached in close proximity to the town thereby seriously interfering with the business of town traders who are already hard hit”

1 July 1935 the AGM and elected were Chairman: Robert Kelly M.C.C. and Vice Chairman: Senator R Keyes

The Consulting Engineer, Robert Kelly B.E. provided regular reports at meetings re house repairs.

A letter dated 29 June from the former Town Clerk re his pension was read and its contents accepted and forwarded for approval to the Minister for Local Government with the resolution: “That we the Bantry Town Commissioners again request the attention of the Minister for Local Government & Public Health to our unanimous resolution passed on 6 Nov 1933 recommending a pension to our late Town Clerk, Mr John O’Callaghan, who had given upwards of 37 years faithful and efficient service as Town Clerk to which we beg to add the period necessary to entitle him to the maximum.

The Commissioners realise that in that period by his practical knowledge and advice he saved the Commissioners Urban Area several hundred pounds. We therefore respectfully ask the Minister to reconsider his case for a pension, as we are of opinion that he was an existing officer within the meaning of the Local Government Acts of 1898, 1902 and 1925 which we trust will meet any formalities that may have been preventing the granting to him of the pension he justly deserves”.

The Artisan tenants were asking about purchasing their houses from the Commissioners.

At the meeting on 9 September the Commissioners had approval from the Minister to pay John O’Callaghan an annual pension of £14 16s 0d being 24x37/60. It was backdated to his retirement date.

Signs at Newtown and Bathing Box to be altered to read “Bantry – Drive Slowly”

Votes of sympathy and paying orders normal at meetings. A lot of letters from Government Depts (circulars) were also normal.

Early in 1936 we note that Robert Kelly B.E. was kept busy with house inspections and plans.

The Commissioners had been looking for land for small allotments. Fr Gould C.C. attended the special meeting on 19 March and indicated he had been in communication with Mr Jeremiah O’Donovan of Newtown and he had agreed to let one acre of land at Newtown to be laid out in plots for the sum of £5 for a year.

Then the Commissioners decided, and approved letting the acre of land in 8 plots to:-

- James Harrington, Reenrour
- Daniel McCarthy, Railway Tce
- John Begley, Keyes Tce
- Denis Keohane do
- Jeremiah Spillane do
- John Goggin, Blackrock Rd
- Patrick Minehane do
- James Farrell, Barrack Rd

And Mr Robert Kelly B.E. to provide the necessary maps.

They were also making a strong case that the Transatlantic Air base and refuelling station be sited in Bantry Bay.

No quorum was again noted at times. On 29 June the AGM was held and elected were Chairman: Robert Kelly and Vice Chairman: Raphael P Keyes.

Again they were calling on the ESB to extend its supply to Bantry. They also agreed to present an address of welcome to Mr Dan O’Mahony, champion wrestler during his visit to Bantry on 31 July 1936.

In December 1936 they approved the following for plots in 1937:

- James Harrington, Reenrour
- Daniel McCarthy do
- John Connolly, Glengarriff Rd

Denis Keohane, Keyes Tee  
John Begley, do  
Patrick Minihane, Blackrock Rd  
John Goggin, do  
Mrs Farrell, do

The Clerk was then directed to advertise for the necessary land.

On 8 March 1937 resolved unanimously “that we most humbly and respectfully appeal to your Holiness by the grace of God to grant the early canonisation of Blessed Oliver Plunket, Primate of Ireland in recognition of his saintly life, and martyrdom in the cause of the Catholic faith. We pray that your health may continue to improve and that God may spare you for many years to direct and guard our Holy Church”. An acknowledgment was later received.

On 30 March the Clerk reported that Fr Gould had secured 1½ acres at Newtown at the same rate as last year. They had 12 applicants so they allocated one-eighth acre to each. However, it appears that the deal was not concluded.

25 June the AGM and elected were Chairman: Robert Kelly and Vice Chairman: Mr Raphael P. Keyes.

In August “An account for £40.10.0 was received from Mr R. Kelly B.E., Barrack St. for services rendered as set out in his account. It was agreed to pay the sum of £35 in full discharge”

In September they agreed unanimously to increase Mark Sullivan, Rate Collectors commission from 1/6 to 2/- in the £.

In October, by letter, the Dept. of Local Government & Public Health refused the increase to the Rate Collector; the Minister was asked to reconsider and the reply back was “No”. The Clerk to again ask Minister to reconsider.

Back to 30 September and flooding due to heavy rain caused considerable damage to traders and householders. On examination it was found that the Alley River which serves as the main sewer was filled with silt to a depth of 2½ to 3 feet. Decided to send a request to the Office of Public Works, Dublin for financial assistance for a minor employment scheme which will help local employment.

In December the Clerk’s salary increased to £52/annum was approved by Minister. But the Minister could not see his way to alter Rate Collector’s commission. Clerk to again write saying “the Commissioners regretted that he could not comply with their request”.

In January 1938 decided to send another request to the Minister to increase the Rate Collectors commission to 2/- in the £. A letter dated 6 March from the Minister sanctioning the increase in Rate Collector’s commission to 2/- in the £ was received.

An offer of land under the Town Commissioners Allotment Scheme was received from Joseph O’Driscoll, Dromleigh @ £6 / acre ploughed and the Commissioners directed the Clerk “to forward what was required to the Department of Local Government”. Approval was later given.

June 1938: Rate Collector total warrant was £223.1.5½ and of this he had lodged £211.13.8½ leaving outstanding £11.7.9½ and of this £4.18.10½ was struck out and the balance was carried forward.

27 Jun AGM and elected were Chairman: Robert Kelly and Vice Chairman: Mr Raphael Keyes – both unanimous.

12 August 1938: “A long discussion took place about the condition of the streets on August Bank Holiday and the preceding Sunday, and it was emphasised that the streets of the town are not cleaned on Saturday afternoon. On that account the town presents a very dirty appearance on Sunday morning especially to visitors passing through. The Clerk was directed to write to the Minister for Local Government & Public Health requesting his sanction to the resolution to change the half holiday of the employees who clean the streets from Saturday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon which is the general half holiday with the Traders of the Town”.

And on 31 August – Minister approved change of half holiday.

Meeting of 3 October resolved: “That we the Bantry Town Commissioners desire to place on record our deep sorrow and regret at the death of Mrs O’Callaghan, Marion St., Bantry, and that we tender to her husband, Mr John O’Callaghan, ex Town Clerk, and her daughter, Miss Mary O’Callaghan, Town Clerk, as well as the other members of her family, our very sincere sympathy in their bereavement, and as a mark of respect that this meeting stands adjourned to a future date”.

1939

The tender of Mr Joseph O’Driscoll, Dromleigh for land for allotments was accepted @ £5 / acre. Public lighting was being discussed on an ongoing basis.

The Town Clerk, Mary O’Callaghan married and a record on 1 May stating the Monthly meeting on that date did not take place due to no quorum she signed herself as “Mary M. Galvin (O’Callaghan). Note: she subsequently used Mary M. Galvin.

26 June AGM was held with Robert Kelly elected as Chairman and Raphael Keyes as Vice Chairman.

In November the Clerk reported that she had received forty five applications for allotments for the coming season.

1940 elected were Chairman: Robert Kelly and Vice Chairman: Raphael Keyes.

The Commissioners decided to take steps to form a branch of the Irish Red Cross Society in the town and district.

“No quorum” again noted.

17 Jan 1941 resolved “That we the Bantry Town Commissioners, desire to convey to the Town Clerk, Mrs Mary M. Galvin and the other members of her family our most sincere sympathy in their bereavement on the death of their father Mr John O’Callaghan, who was for over forty years Town Clerk of Bantry and whose national record was outstanding. That we adjourn this meeting of the Commissioners as a small token of respect to his memory”.

30 June 1941, AGM – Chairman: Robert Kelly; Vice Chairman: Raphael Keyes

No quorum again notable

Letters were numerous at meetings

Votes of sympathy were also numerous

Paying orders were normal at meetings other than special meetings.

An example in March 1942 a total of 8 letters received and 9 paying orders were issued.

They decided to suspend public lighting during summer months; ESB informed the Commissioners that this would mean a saving of £10.15.7 and Commissioners queries how this was arrived at.

29 Aug 1942 - AGM

**Present:**

Robert Kelly  
Edward Cotter  
Daniel Cremin  
Thomas McCarthy  
Timothy Harrington  
Charles O'Donovan  
John McCarthy  
Donal Dix

Not there was Mortimer O'Sullivan

Elected were Chairman: Robert Kelly by majority and Vice Chairman: Edward Cotter.

September: “A letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1942 was read from J. F. Wrenne, Esq, County Manager, in which he intimated that in virtue of the powers vested in him as Cork County Manager, he had made an Order on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. Under the terms of Section 13 of the County Management Act 1940 delegating to Mr James O'Mahony, Assistant County Manager, his powers, functions and duties for the Town Commissioners of Bantry”.

Mr O'Mahony wrote that he would attend the Town Commissioners offices on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> inst at 10.00am for the purpose of carrying out the executive functions.

Owing to the illness of the Rate Collector it was decided to request the Assistant County Manager, Mr James O'Mahony to appoint his wife, Mrs Mary O'Sullivan as temporary Town Rate Collector during his absence.

Meeting on 7 December 1942 and Mr James O'Mahony, ACM, attended the monthly meeting (little transacted by minutes !!, Paying orders were no longer being dealt with directly by the Commissioners.)

January 1943 and no Commissioner attended for the meeting.

12 February: Mr James O'Mahony, ACM also attended the meeting.

After votes of sympathy Mr O'Mahony presented his Estimates.

Meeting on 7 June, Mr James O'Mahony, ACM also attended

28 June AGM:

Chairman: Robert Kelly, Vice Chairman: Edward Cotter

On 14 October they decided to establish a volunteer Fire Service in Bantry and names of volunteers to be submitted to the Clerk.

6 December meeting and we see the first reference to “Managers Orders were read” Powers, functions and duties delegated to Mr James Hurley, as ACM.

Meeting on 3 January 1944 at which Mr James Hurley, ACM was welcomed and he suitably replied.

On 31 January, James Hurley presented draft Estimates – Gross expenditure of £959 and gross receipts of £535 with net estimated expenditure of £424. Allowing for a net estimated credit of £41 then the rate would be 1/6 in the £.

This was unanimously approved.

A meeting on 12 February, Mr James Hurley attended, and it was decided to increase the total rate to 1/7 to allow for extra lights.

The AGM scheduled for 26 June was adjourned to 30<sup>th</sup> June. Elected were Chairman: Robert Kelly and Vice Chairman: Edward Cotter

“The Orders made by the Manager at his last sitting were read” appears in Minutes regularly. At the meeting on 13 November the Chairman welcomed Mr James O’Mahony back again as Town Manager.

1 January 1945 and only the Chairman attended for the meeting.

Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February and James O’Mahony, Manager also attended. The Manager set out his estimate of £1,109 and this was unanimously adopted.

Resolved “That we ask the County Council to make arrangements for the collection of house refuse in the town of Bantry before 9am from the 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> March and 8.30am from the 1<sup>st</sup> April to the 30<sup>th</sup> September.”

30<sup>th</sup> April Meeting to discuss a motion which had been circulated:

“That the Town Commissioners be requested to call a special meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April for the purposes of discussing the erection of the proposed Fire Station which is to be built as the Southern Side of the Courthouse and also to receive a delegation of two members from the Development Association”

AGM held on 30 June 1945 and present were:

Robert Kelly  
Edward Cotter  
Daniel Cremin  
Donal E. Chance  
Raphael P. Keyes  
Patrick Keane  
Thomas McCarthy  
Timothy Harrington  
Daniel McCarthy

Elected were - Chairman: Robert Kelly, Vice-Chair: Edward Cotter

In July the following items were discussed:-

- Request to County Council to speed up the erection of public conveniences.
- Decided to change the day for holding the monthly meeting from the First Monday to the First Tuesday.
- Again promoting Bantry as a sea plane/airplane base and stating that “Bantry Bay is remarkable for its freedom from fog.”

On 5<sup>th</sup> September there was a Special Meeting and James O’Mahony, County Manager also attended. Resolved “That the Manager acting for and on behalf of Bantry Town Commissioners accept from the Bantry Development Association the gift of a plot of ground at Church Road, Bantry containing approx ½ acre for the erection of a handball court thereon and that steps be taken by him to have the necessary transfer executed.”

On 1<sup>st</sup> October Thomas A. Hayes was Town Manager, Bantry.

In November the Manager was requested to fix a speed limit on motor vehicles passing through the town.

In December “The Clerk was directed to write to the Manager, Stella Cinema and to request him to have the National Anthem played in full after each performance and to keep the doors closed until same was finished.”

January 1946 and “The Clerk was directed to request the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to make an order fixing the speed limit for motor cars and cycles going through the town at 15 mph.” In March a letter from the Dept. Local Government and Public Health stating that the maximum speed limit on all mechanically propelled vehicles is 30mph everywhere.

The Manager Thomas A Hayes discussed in detail particulars of the estimate providing for a gross expenditure of £1,076 and a net levy of 1/9½ in the £.

May: “The Clerk was directed to write to Joseph Brennan Esq., Bandon drawing his attention to a dangerous hole in the Mill Stream opposite the Roman Catholic Church at Bantry.”

28<sup>th</sup> June Annual Meeting and elected Robert Kelly as Chairman and Edward Cotter as Vice Chairman.

They requested the Southern Star to have a special reporter to attend the monthly meeting. The Southern Star said due to the poor condition of the road between Skibbereen and Bantry it wasn’t feasible to send a reporter at present.

December 1946 and asked the West Cork Board of Health to speed up the erection of sanitary conveniences in the town.

Manager, Thomas A Hayes set out details of his estimates.

1947: Fuel was very scarce in town and the Clerk was to write to Mrs Shellswell White, Bantry House to ask if she would be willing to dispose some of the timber on the estate to be cut up for firing. 16<sup>th</sup> January Special Meeting to consider a reply from Mrs. Shelswell White and inform the Town Commissioners that in view of the hardship being suffered by the poorer people in Bantry on account of the shortage of fuel, we shall be only too pleased to arrange for the disposal of some trees from the estate for cutting up into firewood.

The Clerk was directed to write to Timothy Cronin Esq., Drombroe to know if he had trees for sale suitable for firewood.

31<sup>st</sup> January was a Special Meeting at which the acute fuel position of the town was discussed and the Manager gave his consent to release turf at the hospital to the local merchants The Clerk was directed to write to J. O'Leary, Bandon asking him to visit Bantry as soon as possible and arrange for the distribution of same.

24<sup>th</sup> June AGM and Robert Kelly elected Chairman and Edward Cotter as Vice Chairman.

August agreed to change the date from the First Monday to the First Tuesday.

In September the Minister for Local Government might make a special grant available to allow work to be undertaken for the handball alley.

Commissioners were writing to CIE complaining about the train from Bantry to Cork. Time allowed 3½ hours, for 58 miles. This is out of all reason especially now when both English and American coal is being used to fire the engines. Travel time of 3 hours would be suitable they claimed. In October a letter back from CIE saying a new timetable was being prepared and it's proposed to reduce the stop at Ballineen from 20 minutes to 5 minutes.

In December the Manger set out his estimate of £1,274.5.0

1st March 1948 and Congratulations extended to T.J. Murphy T.D. on his appointment as Minister for Local Government.

9<sup>th</sup> March Meeting and discussed the Handball court which was estimated at £872 and there would be a grant available from the Minister for Finance. "Having interviewed Mr. Barnard, Deputy County Engineer he agreed to carry out the work on erecting the ball alley on behalf of the Town Commissioners."

29<sup>th</sup> June 1948 at the AGM Robert Kelly elected Chairman and Edward Cotter as Vice Chairman.

The Commissioners directed the Clerk to call a special meeting in connection with the Ball Alley on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 1948 at 7.30 o'clock and to invite Mr. J.J. Roycroft, Deputy Surveyor and Mrs. S.C. Cotter and Mr. J. Keohane, members of the Bantry Development Association to attend.

12<sup>th</sup> July Special Meeting re handball alley and up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> July £705.16.5 had been expended out of the grant of £872 and the Commissioners were hopeful that the job could be finished.

In August it was noted that no reply from Garda Superintendent re parking of cars at New Street so it was agreed that Commissioners Kelly, Cotter and Chance "would interview the Superintendent after the meeting"

In September it was agreed to erect speed signs at Newtown and the Old Pier – "20 miles per hour"

There was alot of discussion re parking bye-laws. Agreed to seek no parking (except commercial vehicles) on both sides of New St from Vickery's Hotel to the corner of Main St and New St and no parking in Main St between Vickery's Corner, New St and Justin McCarthy's corner of Barrack St and Main St.

In December the Superintendent said “existing statutory provisions are considered sufficient to deal with traffic control in the streets in question, he would arrange to have these provisions more rigidly enforced”. The Commissioners expressed satisfaction at this.

A letter from Council Engineer W.J. Geraghty B.E. with map showing suggested site for a public sanitary convenience was considered and the proposed site was not acceptable. They suggested a location “opposite Tom’s Lane on the Sand Quay, the property of the Council”

Agreed that the Ball Alley to be managed by a Committee of 9 Town Commissioners and 7 members from Bantry Development Association.

1949 and an extract from the Minutes:

Bantry Sanitary Convenience: A letter was received from Mr W.J. Geraghty B.E., Clonakilty “stating that under no circumstances would sanction be given for a site further from the town than the site of the existing convenience”. Mr James O’Mahony who attended the meeting said “he would visit both sites when the meeting was over and see what could be done”.

AGM on 27 June and elected were Chairman: Robert Kelly and Vice Chairman:: Edward Cotter.

15 July “The Clerk was directed to write and request Mr Joseph O’Sullivan, Caherdaniel, to visit the Commissioners houses at Artisan Dwellings and Keyes Terrace and prepare an estimate and specification for the repairs necessary to same”

In August the Commissioners decided to become a member of The Association of Municipal Authorities and the Annual contribution was £2.2.0.

In December they were requesting Mr Geraghty to meet them re the public convenience.

On 10 March 1950 they held a Special Meeting to pass a vote of sympathy to Mrs Mary Galvin, Town Clerk, on the death of her husband, Mr Edward Galvin.

6 April: A letter from J. M. Mulvihill, Deputy County Engineer informing the Town Commissioners that the direction signs “Bantry Town” had not yet been received from the Automobile Association and he was again writing to them.

There were ongoing exchange of letters re a possible barrier in front of houses on North side of the Square on Fair Days.

Meeting scheduled for 7 Aug and the only member who turned up was Robert Kelly, Chairman.

On 30 September the AGM was held and Commissioners were:-

Edward Cotter,  
Daniel McCarthy  
John Daniel Kane  
Michael Fitzgerald  
Justin McCarthy  
Jeremiah Horgan  
Cornelius McCarthy  
Jeremiah Hourihane  
Daniel Cremin

Elected were Edward Cotter, Chairman, by majority and Justin McCarthy, Vice Chairman, unanimous

A Tenant Purchase Scheme was being explored and at the Oct Meeting a letter from the Manager gave two options, viz. get an independent valuer to value the houses or that the Town Commissioners would place a value on them; he recommended the latter and considered a fair and equitable valuation would be £100 per house. They adjourned consideration until the Manager could attend.

On 1 December “A deputation as follows Messrs Raphael P. Keyes, Timothy Deasy and Sylvester Cotter came before the meeting from the Bantry Development Association with the proposal that they hand over to the Town Commissioners part of the lands at Newtown for development as a Town Park”

The Manager and Commissioners accepted this in principle and to seek what financial assistance might be available.

Again in December they decided to offer the houses to tenants @ £80 each, subject to the Ministers approval

Special Meeting 25 Jan 1951 to “record our sorrow on the deaths of Messrs Robert Kelly and Charles O’Donovan who were both members of the Town Commissioners”

On 5 February a letter from the Dept. of Local Government stated the Dept had no objection to the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

“Great indignation was expressed by the members at the wanton destruction caused at the new public sanitary convenience”

Mr Robert Kelly B.E. acknowledged the vote of Sympathy on death of his father, Robert Kelly.

On 9 March the Commissioners agreed that monthly meetings would be on the first Tuesday of each month. They agreed to erect a new public sanitary convenience on the site of the old one at Church Road, if there were no objections.

In May they decided to change the date of the monthly meeting to the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

AGM held on 28 June 1951 and officers were Chairman: Edward Cotter and Vice Chairman: Justin McCarthy.

Meeting on 9 July: An application for renewal of the licence for the Stella Cinema was considered. The Clerk was directed to ask Mr Charles McCarthy B.E., Deputy County Engineer to inspect it and report to the Clerk.

The Manager agreed to ask Mr Robert Kelly B.E. to inspect and report with estimate of costs the concrete portion of the Railway Pier and should the Commissioners take over the pier and utilise it for the purpose of a promenade.

The Manager suggested that the Commissioners request Mr Robert Kelly B.E. to inspect and report with plans, specification and estimate for laying out the lands at Newtown as a park, etc and report before 10 August.

A quorum was not present for a meeting on 14 August.

In October the Commissioners were informed that a stamp vending machine to be provided outside of Post Office. Also that Charles McCarthy take over the Newtown project from Robert Kelly. Robert Kelly plans were forwarded to Dept. of Local Government.

In December some correspondence on the Railway Pier to be sent to Charles McCarthy B.E.

On 8 January 1952 a report from Charles McCarthy B.E. stated the Railway Pier was “structurally sound” but the following items are required:-

1. Filling of depression £20
2. Erection of new railings at West side and part of North side £ 40
3. Painting all railings £5
4. Take down gate etc at East side £5

The Clerk to inform CIE of this.

In February CIE proposed a rent of £50 a year for the Railway Pier but later in October they agreed at £1 / annum.

On 27 June the AGM was held with Edward Cotter elected as Chairman and Justin McCarthy as Vice Chairman.

In March 1953 resolved to “apply to the Heraldic Office, Dublin for a Grant of Arms for the town of Bantry”.

The Grant of Arms was formally made on 1 April by the Chief Herald of Ireland, Edward MacLysaght. The Official declaration is as follows:

“Whereas application hath been made unto me by the BANTRY TOWN COMMISSIONERS setting forth that it is desired that certain amorial bearings should be ratified by lawful authority unto the TOWN OF BANTRY. I do hereby certify and declare that the Arms following, that is to say:- azure on a bend sinister argent between in chief on ancient stone passion cross or in base a boar passant proper there antique ships sable with the motto ‘Ná cluinter claoiteact oraib’, as in the margin hereof more clearly depicted, do of right belong and appertain to that town”

### **Description of Arms:**

Colours:

Top left and lower right ..... Azure

Bend sinister is coloured silver with black borders (white may depict the silver)

Cross..... Gold

Ships ..... black

Boar ..... Light brown tipped with black and white

Borders. The surround border is black

### **Symbolic meaning:**

Cross denotes Faith

Bend Sinister and Ships. The Bend represents Bantry Bay and the Ships symbolise Wolfe Tone’s attempted invasion with the French Fleet (1796) in the cause of Irish Freedom.

Boar. The Boar is taken from the Clan Arms of The O’Sullivan Beare to denote Bantry’s association with the Clan, and in Heraldry a Boar is symbolic of “Courage and Determination”

Motto. The Motto is taken from an Irish Poem (16<sup>th</sup> century) by Aonagus Daighre O'Dalaig, one of a celebrated Munster family.

Ná cluinter claoiteacht oraib = never may defeat be told of you.

Plaque unveiled on Easter Sunday 5 April 1953 by Very Rev D Canon Murphy, P.P. V.F. and by Mr Justin McCarthy, Vice-Chairman, Bantry Town Commissioners.

AGM held on 26 June 1953 and elected were Chairman: Edward Cotter and Vice Chairman: Justin McCarthy.

In August the tender of Messrs Edward Barrett & Sons, Marble Hill, Ballintemple, Cork of £2,370 was accepted for levelling etc of a playing pitch at Newtown.

In October concern at dirty streets so they complained to Assistant County Engineer.

1954 and Vote of Sympathy to Town Clerk on death of her brother, Jack O'Callaghan.

On 17 June 1954 a Special meeting was held to pass a vote of sympathy to Mrs Eileen McCarthy and family on the death of her husband Justin McCarthy, Vice Chairman.

AGM held 28 June 1954 and elected were Chairman: Edward Cotter; Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Hourihane.

The Clerk was directed to write to Messrs John D Kane, Cornelius McCarthy and Daniel Cremin asking if they wished to continue as they had not attended meetings for over 6 months. In September letters of resignation were read from Messrs Kane and McCarthy tendering their resignations (*nothing appears to have come from Cremin*)  
The Commissioners decided not to co-opt anyone.

1955 and ongoing concern at dangerous corner at junction of Marino St and Barrack St. The Commissioners suggested to consider installing "winking willies".

They Commissioners decided to complain to the County Council that Austin Twomey had again put up posters on the Mill Wall leading to the R.C. Church.

AGM held on 11 July 1955 and Commissioners were:-

Jeremiah Horgan  
Daniel McCarthy  
Jeremiah Hourihane  
Sean McCarthy  
Mark Sullivan  
Thomas J Holland  
Daniel McGrath  
Joseph Cremin  
Thomas Spillane

Elected were Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan.

A meeting was held on 28 December to pass a vote of sympathy on death of colleague, Mark Sullivan.

6 March 1956 meeting at which Sylvester Cotter of Market St unanimously co-opted.

The Commissioners were seeking a post box at Georges Row.

AGM held on 26 June 1956 and the Chairman elected was Sean McCarthy. They decided to appoint a Vice Chairman. Thomas Holland was proposed by Sylvester Cotter, but there was no seconder. There was no other proposal for the office so “appointment fell through”.

Letters were written to the Assistant County Engineer (ACE) re roads, dumping, smells, etc In November concern was expressed at the long delay in starting the urgently needed houses at Reenrour West.

In December the Managers Estimate for 1957 was £1,512.

On 11 January 1957 “A telegram was read from the Manager stating that he could not attend meeting due to illness”

The Commissioners decided to protest at the possible closure of the railway.

In May a letter was read from Bantry Estate office re the Commissioners taking over the collection of tolls on a yearly lease.

The AGM was held on 27 June and elected were Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan. Here after a long discussion the taking over of collecting tolls and Markets the Commissioners agreed not to purchase same.

In February 1958 a resolution asking that the max speed limit in all towns and villages in the 26 counties for all vehicles be 25 mph.

The delay in starting the Reenrour houses was again discussed. Also to ask the ACE to tar and roll remaining roads and streets in town.

“The Clerk was directed to write to....” Was very common at meetings.

AGM on 24 June and elected were Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan.

Following a complaint about Bill Posting at Mill Rock a postcard was received from the Deputy County Engineer, Skibbereen stating the matter was receiving attention.

Reenrour houses commenced 25 September 1958.

1959 and complaining about the hospital not being finished yet.

AGM held and Chairman was Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman was Jeremiah Horgan.

Road resurfacing was again requested. They Commissioners decided to enter the Tidy Towns Competition in 1960.

The Meeting on 2 May 1960 and the sale of property at Newtown for industrial purposes was discussed. “The Manager reported that he had sold a portion of land of approximately two

acres to Mr A.J. Flatley for the sum of £350 and he now asked for the approval of the Commissioners” This was unanimously agreed.

AGM and Commissioners were:

Daniel McCarthy  
Sylvester Cotter  
William C O’Donovan  
Sean McCarthy  
David O’Connell  
Jeremiah Horgan  
Thomas Spillane  
Thomas Holland  
Joseph Cremin

Elected were Chairman: Seam McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan.

Town Clerk’s salary increased to £172 / annum.

A letter from Mr Roland Wagner, Southern Pharmaceuticals Ltd thanking the people of Bantry and the Commissioners for the help during a recent fire at Beach House.

Repair footpaths again discussed and Bantry got 59 marks out of 100 in Tidy Towns Competition of 1960.

The GAA were not paying rent for Town Park and in December the Commissioners agreed to accept £30 in full settlement.

Meeting of 3 January 1961 - Letters written to:

- Write again to Cork County Council, Clonakilty re public light at Union Hill
- Write again to Cork County Council re dangerous condition of bridge at entrance to County Hospital
- Write to Cork County Council re repairs to footpaths at Abbey
- Write to Cork County Council, Clonakilty asking when works would commence on the stream at Bridge St and Chapel St and what would be the nature of the works.
- Write to Health Authority, Cork asking if Old Age Pensioners with Medical Cards are entitled to free treatment in hospital.
- Write to ACM asking if “Free Fuel” was administered in Bantry area.
- Votes of sympathy (4)

On 25 April the land at Newtown was formally signed over to Mr Flatley.

On 27 June 1961 the AGM was held and elected were Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan (both by majority).

In July the ACE was requested to line the Square for parking and later complaints about inadequate street cleaning.

6 February 1962 and Clerk directed to write to the ACE requesting:

1. Lower wall at corner of High St and William St
2. repair wall of bridge at Breen’s shed
3. repair railings around the footpath leading to the New Pier
4. “STOP” signs be erected at all dangerous junctions in town

5. that Farmer's Lane be tarred and footpaths at both sides
6. that the triangle of the road in front of McCarthy's slaughterhouse Glengarriff Road be tarred.

26 June 1962 the AGM - Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan.

Meeting with ACE re the lining in the Square.

In the 1963 the Manager allowed £50 in the estimates for more street name plates but Commissioners decided that that money instead be used to finish decorating their offices.

Noted that there was trespass of cattle and sheep in Abbey Burial Ground due to inadequate fence and decided to write to Cork County Council in Clonakilty.

4 June – Meeting adjourned as a mark of respect to late Pope John XXIII.

25 June 1963 the AGM and elected were Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan.

ACM is mentioned as Michael J. O'Mahony this one time.  
Thomas A Hayes back again as ACM.

Dredging around the old pier was discussed and decided to send a deputation to Cork County Council.

The Commissioners decided to try and buy the railway yard and were discussing the possibility of it being a caravan park. Some discussing were taking place with 2 companies in England.

Meeting on 4 February 1964 and Garda Supt. Farrelly and Charles McCarthy ACE attended re parking issues. Several letters were being sent to the ACE re various requests that the Council would carry out works in town.

AGM on 30 June - Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan.

There were ongoing discussion re railway yard and it possibly being used for a hotel. CIE were offering it for sale by public auction and the Commissioners were not happy with this. Caravan company still interested but the price was too high and it was seeking alternative sites so the Commissioners said to Mr H. Gold of Greenford Caravan Company to come from UK to Bantry and they would show him around.

1965 and the toilet near the Courthouse was under discussion and letters were exchanging with Cork County Council in Clonakilty. Issued also being raised with the County Council included water supplies, road repairs and public lights etc being sought. Request from Square residents for better control of traffic on Fair Days

Managers Estimate for the year was £1,350

Dredging at Old Pier still under discussion and Cork County Council saying it was not its responsibility.

In March a letter from Dept of Local Government stating that elections will not take place next June.

10 June 1965 a Special meeting – vote of sympathy on death of ACM, Thomas A Hayes. The Commissioners were getting a Mass for the happy repose of his soul.

AGM on 29 June and elected Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan.

Joseph K O'Hare is named as acting ACM.

In the Tidy Towns Competition in 1965 Bantry got 72 marks – up 1 on last year.

On 28 October a Special Meeting and the purpose of meeting was to inform the Commissioners that Herr Frick proposed to build a shoe factory on part of the old railway property. In November the Manager was recommending that the County Council would purchase the Bantry Railway Station from CIE.

February 1966 a letter from N.J. Downes & Co., Solicitors, Mullingar “stating they had an enquiry from a foreign Industrial Firm who may be interested to set up a chemical factory in or near Bantry and they would be very interested to know what amenities are available as regards the port and available labour and they would be obliged for any information they could get on the matter”

The Clerk was directed to acknowledge the letter and invite the interested parties to come to Bantry and the Commissioners will give them whatever information they require.

The solicitors responded acknowledging the Commissioners letter and stating that it “is of no help to us whatsoever”.

April and the ACM is Richard B. Haslam.

Traffic problems were discussed with ACE, Charlie McCarthy.

1 May the ACM is Mr John (Sean) Hayes.

AGM on 1 July - Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Jeremiah Horgan.

The Commissioners discussed the proposed new Library.

At a meeting on 2 August: “The dirty condition of the town was again discussed and the Clerk was directed to inform Mr C. McCarthy, Assistant County Engineer that if essential matters were not carried out they would consult the County Manager and the Chief Assistant County Engineer with a view to having some improvement made”

On 9 August a vote of sympathy was passed on death of Vice Chairman, Jeremiah Horgan.

On 6 September the Manager, Sean Hayes made his first official visit to Bantry as Town Manager.

In October Mrs Kathleen Horgan was co-opted (wife of late Jeremiah Horgan). She was the first female to be a Member of the Town Commissioners.

In November they decided to invite the new ACE, Mr F O'Keeffe to the next meeting “when they would give him a list of the improvements they would like carried out”

3 January 1967 at which the Commissioners passed a vote of sympathy to wife, Maeve, and family of the late Charles McCarthy, Chief Assistant County Engineer.  
The Clerk was directed to invite Mr Lee, ACE to the next meeting.

Meeting on 7 February and Mr Lee sent a message that he could not attend the meeting. The Commissioners were disappointed so they sent him a “shopping list”.

At the meeting of 7 March “A deputation consisting of the Chairman, Mr Sean McCarthy, and Mr William O’Donovan was appointed to interview Mr Michael Crowley, Assistant County Engineer with a view to having various improvements carried out in the town”

The AGM on 8 July 1967 and new Commissioners elected:-

Sylvester Cotter  
Justin McCarthy  
Joseph Cremin  
Daniel McCarthy County Council Ganger  
Sean McCarthy  
Thomas Holland  
Daniel Driscoll  
Thomas Spillane  
Daniel McCarthy Fishery Inspector

Chairman: Sean McCarthy on a vote and Vice Chairman: Sylvester Cotter on casting vote of the Chairman, as Joseph Cremin did not vote.

(Note: later we see Daniel McCarthy that one was in Blackrock Rd, and the other in Barrack Rd.)

Letters were sent to the ACE re several repairs, drains, etc

7 May 1968: “A letter dated 29.4.1968 was read from Mr Matson, Assistant County Engineer, Bantry informing the Commissioners that the broken pailing at the New Pier has now been repaired” Again more repairs were sought from ACE, by letter.

Agreed to write to the Manager, Gulf Oil asking that he give priority to employing local labour.

The AGM on 25 June 1968 - Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Sylvester Cotter.

The Commissioners were requesting that all night lighting be provided in Bantry. Another “shopping list” for ACE, drains, fill holes etc. Several letters were written to Cork County Council in Skibbereen and Clonakilty re toilets, road widening, lighting, slipway, etc.

In 1969 the poor quality of public lighting was raised. On 26 March a Special Meeting re Tidy Towns took place and “it was agreed that Mr Sean McCarthy, Chairman and Mr J.F. Matson visit the caravans on the Square and request the owners to move them off the Square”

The AGM was held on 8 July

Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Sylvester Cotter.

“That the act of bravery of Sergeant P O’Grady, and Gardai J.C. O’Sullivan, J.F. Dalton and J.J. O’Riordan, all of Bantry Garda Station, who disarmed an armed gunman of a loaded revolver and 113 rounds of ammunition at Wolfe Tone Square, Bantry on the morning of 17<sup>th</sup> May 1969, should be brought to the notice of the Garda Commissioner”

The Commissioners felt that reports appearing in the Cork Examiner and the Southern Star were slanted.

Tidy Towns result for 1969 and Bantry got 94 marks out of 150, an increase of 6 on last year In November there was a discussion on setting up a Harbour Authority or similar Body.

In February 1970 the Postmaster responded to a request saying “that the estate at Slip Lawn does not produce sufficient postings to warrant the provision of a letterbox” The Commissioners proposed that he be again written to and asked to change his mind. (later: no change and they wrote again to see if he would change).

Agreed to ask the ACE to have the parking signs in town removed and concern at the closure of the Flatley factory.

In April agreed that the Chairman and Justin McCarthy “to interview the Rev Mother Bantry Convent and get all particulars in connection with the Free School Transport”  
Invite Mr Matson to the next meeting re Rope Walk.

On 5 May Mr Matson attended the meeting. “The bad condition of the footpaths and watertables was discussed with the Engineer. He informed the Commissioners that on account of the cement strike no repairs or improvements could be carried out at present but he stated that when the cement strike was over he would have the repairs and improvements done”

The AGM was held on 14 July  
Chairman: Sean McCarthy – Vice Chairman: Sylvester Cotter.

In September the following resolution was passed: “That we in the Bantry Town Commissioners protest in the strongest possible manner to the proposed increase in travelling expenses to Teachtaí Dála who are more than adequately paid”  
Copy to An Taoiseach and all Local Authorities.

In December, Thomas Hayes was welcomed back after his recent illness.

Meeting on 4 May 1971 and an apology from Mr Matson as he was in Dublin that week.

AGM held on 14 July - Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Sylvester Cotter.

Again a list of works were requested from the ACE.

On 1 February 1972 the meeting was adjourned as a mark of respect to those shot in Derry on 30 Jan 1972.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman to call on ACE to discuss the following  
1. Pier wall; 2. Hospital steps and road leading to County Hospital; 3. Sewer at Church Rd; 4. Seafield Road; 5. Repairs to door at burial ground at Church Road.

AGM held on 12 July. At the outset the Chairman referred to the death that day of their colleague, Mr Daniel McCarthy, Blackrock Rd. He was a member since 1955. Meeting adjourned to 15 July as a mark of respect.

Chairman: Seam McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Sylvester Cotter.

A request to ACE to reline parking in the Square. The Community Centre opened at the Old Railway Station. Tidy Towns result in 111 marks out of 150, up 1 on last year. "The Clerk was directed to write to the ACE, Bantry drawing his attention to the spillage of oil on the road at the Community Centre and to request that same be cleaned up"

On 5 December "The Clerk was directed to write to the ACE and inform him that since the erection of the Library at Bridge Street, a new waterfall has been created on the Mill Stream the noise of which is creating a nuisance and is the cause of great annoyance to the people living in the vicinity and request his immediate attention to same"

Meeting on 17 January 1973 James O'Mahony, ACM was present.

In February a petition was received from parents requesting a school warden at Convent of Mercy school.

In June there was a large "shopping list" for ACE including 12 No pedestrian crossings.

AGM held on 4 July - Chairman: Sean McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Sylvester Cotter.

At the meeting on 4 December the Clerk informed the Members that owing to the petrol shortage the Manager, James O'Mahony, was unable to attend the Meeting.

"The Clerk informed the Commissioners that Mrs Maria Mulvey, Convent Lodge had been appointed school warden and took up duty yesterday"

1974 - "A circular letter was read from the Secretary, Dept of Local Government dealing with the Governments recent decision to set aside St Patrick's Day as a Day of National Commemoration"

In March Mr Matson submitted, for the approval of the Town Commissioners, a plan of the proposed new traffic lanes and parking places in Wolfe Tone Square.

AGM held on 28 June and newly elected members were:

Sylvester Cotter  
Justin McCarthy  
Jeremiah Alexander O'Donovan  
Cornelius Kelly  
Donal McCarthy  
Thomas F Holland  
James O'Shea  
Patrick Minehane  
Sean McCarthy

Chairman: T Holland and Vice Chairman: Justin McCarthy, both by majority.

The Commissioners were still on about the noise at the Library waterfall and writing to the County Architect.

On 3 December a meeting was held and also present were the ACM, James O'Mahony, Garda Supt. J.J. McMahon and J.F. Matson ACE re traffic proposals and Commissioners agreed that Traffic Bye-laws be introduced.

It was announced that the Government plans to set up a controlling authority for Bantry Bay. Whiddy is now operational.

January 1975 at which meeting a vote of sympathy on death of ex-colleague, Joseph Cremin was passed. He was a member between 1955 and 1974.

Example of correspondence was 8 letters were read and 5 letters were sent plus 2 votes of sympathy at a meeting.

Due to many complaints that people did not know how much gas they had left in a cylinder it was resolved that the Commissioners would ask the Minister for Industry & Commerce to introduce legislation to have meters on all gas cylinders.

AGM held on 1 July 1975

Chairman: Cornelius Kelly and Vice Chairman: Donal McCarthy.

Liam Mullins, Deputy County Engineer wrote saying Gulf Oil had taken some steps, and further ones yet to be taken, to prevent pollution in the Bay.

A letter to the County Architect noting that nothing has been done re noise at the library waterfall.

The Commissioners were seeking that a new sewerage scheme for Bantry would be sanctioned by the Minister.

In January 1976 the Commissioners were seeking a bus shelter and letters were sent to CIE and the ACM.

On 23 January Mr Matson presented traffic plans for the Square and these were accepted unanimously.

On 6 April Mr A O'Donovan tendered his resignation "for entirely personal reasons". Donal Lynch was co-opted on 4 May.

AGM held on 6 July - Chairman: Donal McCarthy, Vice Chairman: James O'Shea.

"The poor quality of milk delivered in the area was discussed"

Writing a few letters at any meeting to the ACE was not uncommon.

In 1977 there were ongoing discussions with the IDA re promoting the Bantry area.

The AGM was held on 5 July 1977

Chairman: James O'Shea, Vice Chairman: Justin McCarthy

Again letters to the ACE and ongoing exchanges with the IDA and the County Development Officer, Eddie Murphy.

January 1978: Fred Willis, ACE, was requested to cut briars in the Abbey Burial Ground. Discussions were held with the ESB re public lighting.

The Commissioners were requesting that a list of planning applications would be made available at the Courthouse and that the ACE would make people aware of applications if they contacted him.

AGM held on 6 July

Chairman: James O'Shea, Vice Chairman: Justin McCarthy.

The long delay in formal implementation of the traffic bye-laws was of concern. The Commissioners decided to seek the County Solicitors advice on chip vans, hawkers selling on Square.

In December contact the ACE, Sean O'Brasail, re the condition of streets.

19 January 1979 a special meeting to express sympathy to the families of all the victims of the Whiddy Disaster.

The ACM is Eddie Marnane.

Dissatisfaction was expressed at the lack of power of the recently established Harbour Board. In April the problem of after hours drinking was discussed with the Gardai.

A major sewerage scheme was underway in town and complaints received about the condition of streets.

ACE for holiday relief was Michael Corkery.

New Commissioners and AGM held on 7 June 1979.

James J Crowley  
Justin McCarthy  
Cornelius Kelly  
Thomas Holland  
James O'Shea  
Michael Keohane  
Donal McCarthy  
Miss Eithne O'Mahony  
P.J. Barry was ill

Chairman: Thomas Holland and Vice Chairman: Justin McCarthy.

It was agreed that the office of Chairman should rotate.

“On being questioned about the proposal for a bypass road from the Westlodge Hotel to Donemark the Manager said that such a roadway would be funded by way of a road fund grant”

In August we note the new handwriting of the Minutes so we assume the Town Clerk changed to Breda Dwyer from Mary Galvin. However there is no comment or welcome in the minutes.

An apology from D. A Murphy as temp ACM.

At 2 October meeting it is recorded that Mrs Breda Dwyer, “Sea Breeze” Caherdaniel, Bantry appointed Town Clerk with effect from 3 Aug 1979.

Michael Murphy is recorded as ACE for Bantry.

In 1980 the condition of streets after the sewerage scheme was causing concern. The Commissioners asked the Manager to have scrapped cars removed from various places in town.

The VEC is waiting the Department approval for a new Vocational School

The AGM held on 16 June

Chairman: Justin McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Cornelius Kelly.

The condition of roads after the sewer laying was a big concern to the Commissioners.

4 November “The County Manager raised the question of a statement being made by a Member in regard to machinery being idle and being paid for by the Council and he stated the Member had been written to asking that it be substantiated or withdrawn if it was not true....”

February 1981 and frustration expressed that the IDA was not delivering, and some considered resigning; others felt that was pointless.

The Commissioners decided to write to Sean Hayes who retired as County Manager and wish him a happy and long retirement.

In March it was announced that the IDA was to develop an industrial site and the Commissioners were pleased.

AGM on 16 June and elected were Chairman: Cornelius Kelly, Vice Chairman: P.J. Barry.

A special meeting was held in October re parking and casual trading.

4 May 1982 at which meeting Neill Clarke was co-opted following Michael Keohane’s resignation.

AGM on 15 June, elected were Chairman: Donal McCarthy, Vice Chairman: James O’Shea.

In August Mr T Holland requested the attendance of Members at meetings and this was stated as follows:

“Total number of meetings 50 since June ’79 to July ‘82

	Present	Absent
Mr. C. Kelly	38	12
Mr. P.J. Barry	23	27
Mr. D. McCarthy	36	14
Mr. T. Holland	43	7
Miss E. O’Mahony	26	24
Mr. J. McCarthy	38	12
Mr. J. O’Shea	44	6
Mr. J.J. Crowley	28	22

Mr N. Clarke attended 4 meetings out of 5 meetings since his co-option”

In October D.A. Daly was acting ACM (1 meeting it seems)

Sat 11 December 1982 a Special Meeting re twinning with Pont l’Abbe in Brittany

It was stated that Skibbereen and Baltimore were visiting Brittany on 22 Jan and Bantry decided they would go to Pont l'Abbe at that time also.  
Finance was to be sought.

8 February 1983 – Meeting was held in the new offices; a discussion took place on the proposed relief road.

May “The Chairman informed the Meeting that of the trip to Brittany in connection with twinning. He stated that himself and M/s T Holland and J McCarthy had been given a wonderful reception. It was decided to hold a Special Meeting to form a Twinning Committee”.

The AGM was held on 14 June 1983

Chairman: Sean McCarthy, Vice Chairman: Justin McCarthy.

The Manager informed the Meeting that the old Town Commissioners rooms were for sale by public auction on 23 June.

In August the Commissioners approved the sale of Town Commissioners premises for £10,400 to Donal and Geraldine McCarthy and John and Elizabeth Hunt.

Casual Trading was being discussed at meetings

On 14 December a Vote of Sympathy was expressed to Mr John Galvin on the death of his mother, the former Town Clerk, Mary Galvin.

In 1984 items under discussion were casual trading, traffic management in the Square and the town.

John Deasy was noted as temporary ACM.

The AGM held on 14 June

Chairman: Justin McCarthy and Vice Chairman: Thomas Holland.

A meeting was held in October re Parking Bye-laws.

Every effort should be made to keep Bantry Hospital open the Commissioners said.

A letter was sent to Canon O'Callaghan requesting a light at the lower end of the Church steps.

At the meeting on 4 December discussions were held with Michael Murphy Executive Engineer re Abbey extension. He explained that land was being obtained. They thanked him for all his work in the past. (it appeared he was leaving).

At the meeting on 5 February 1985 John Flynn Executive Engineer attended.

Pedestrian crossings to be discussed with Ex Eng, also Litter and Casual trading.

In May no development in regard to relief road was noted. It was agreed that the County Council building on Wolfe Tone Square be named “Aras Beantraí”

Paddy Deasy was ACM for 1 week.

First Meeting of new Commissioners on 1 July 1985

Members:

John Joseph Connolly  
John M Connolly  
Thomas Holland  
Con O'Leary  
John Patrick O'Shea  
Gerry Shallow  
Eithne O'Mahony  
Patrick Joseph Barry  
Cornelius Kelly

Chairman: Thomas Holland, Vice Chairman: Con O'Leary.

The Chairman asked Members to present their problems to the D.A. Murphy ACM and J Flynn, Ex Eng. and many issues were raised.

In August a request for litter bins and casual trading was discussed. The Drug problem was discussed.

Delegations received from Bantry Traders Association and Bantry Chamber of Commerce Agreed to write to the Gardai re derelict cars on the Square.

New footpaths were sought but no funds available said the Ex Eng.

A Special Meeting on 13 November to pass a vote of sympathy on death of colleague, Cornelius Kelly.

In January 1986 the Commissioners had a list of desires for the Engineer.

In February Tom O'Sullivan was co-opted in place of Cornelius Kelly.

The Commissioners were complaining "that Aer Rianta are advertising foreign whiskeys at the airport and not Irish. It was decided to enquire if there was a reason for this"

A lot of discussion on repairs, signs and lights. The oneway system was satisfactory generally the Commissioners felt.

AGM on 17 June 1986

Chairman: Con O'Leary, Vice Chairman: Gerry Shallow

July: Neil Clarke brought Members up to date on activities of the Chamber Of Commerce

5 August: The monthly meeting was not held because of flooding in town

Meeting on 20 January 1987 at which a letter of resignation was received from Eithne O'Mahony.

10 February, Estimates Meeting Managers Estimate of £8,470

Michael Milner was co-opted to replace Eithne O'Mahony.

Commissioners wished John Casey, Cahernacrin who retired from the ACE's office on 9 Feb after 40 years service, a happy retirement.

10 March, Frank O'Donovan, Assistant County Engineer, attended the meeting and he was welcomed as was Commissioner Michael Milner. It was the first meeting for both. The Chairman then invited question for the engineer.

Discussions were ongoing about possible cuts in Bantry Hospital.

AGM on 7 July

Chairman: John M Connolly, Vice Chairman: John J Connolly

Town map being produced by Condor Publishing Ltd and ongoing discussion re content

11 August was the final meeting for Breda Dwyer as Town Clerk.

8 September at which Humphery Desmond was the new Town Clerk.

Tidy Towns results were discussed.

19 December was a Special Meeting re Bantry Hospital and closure of the female surgical ward.

1988 saw lists for the engineer and manager as usual.

Casual trading was also under discussion.

A new public convenience opposite the Garda Station was built.

An extension of Bantry pier was discussed.

Meeting of 14 June: It was agreed that all minutes be typed in future and circulated in advance and taken "as read" at the Monthly meetings.

AGM on 5 July

Chairman: Gerry Shallow, Vice Chairman: Con O'Leary

Commissioners stating that casual trading and parking were "chaotic" on Fair days and decided to write to the Gardai.

A request for a pedestrian crossing at Glengarriff Rd was made.

March 1989 at which meeting the resignation of Gerry Shallow from the Town

Commissioners was read as he was transferred to a bank in Mallow and hence could not attend meetings in Bantry.

The Commissioners decided to elect a new Chairman.

On a draw from a hat Commissioner T O'Sullivan was elected Chairman over Mr O'Shea.

A tree planting ceremony was taking place at the Peace Park on Sun 7 May to mark the Golden Jubilee of Red Cross.

9 May 1989

Co-option to replace Gerry Shallow and 3 names put forward, viz.

Mr Matt Kingston, Newtown

Mr James O'Shea, Caherdaniel

Mr Timothy F. O'Sullivan, Newtown

"Following some heated exchanged the Chairman adjourned the meeting"

16 May Special meeting, by letter Mr James O'Shea had withdrawn his consent to he being nominated. By majority Mr Matt Kingston was co-opted.

AGM 1 July

Chairman: John O'Shea, Vice Chairman: Michael Milner

Planning Permission was sought from Cork County Council for 2 No single Point mooring buoys for the Whiddy terminal.

25 August was termed an "Emergency meeting" at which it was resolved to "lodge an appeal against the decision of the County Council to grant planning permission to the ESB for the development of an area depot at Harbour View"

January 1990 at which a discussion was held on Bantry Water Supply Augmentation Scheme to increase production.

Bantry By-Pass was still at the planning stage.

February there was pollution of Bantry Bay by M.V. Tribulus and the clean-up was being coordinated by Dept of Marine Inspector, Seamus McLoughlin.

A proposal for a Harbour Authority was discussed.

Report that the culvert through the Square was in bad condition and in danger of collapsing.

March there was a Special Meeting re Bantry hospital and equipment and it was agreed to form the "Friends of Bantry Hospital Association" immediately.

Complaints about "begging on streets" so decision was to write to the Gardai.

AGM on 10 July

Chairman: John J Connolly and Vice Chairman: John O'Shea.

A review of the traffic management was suggested.

In September there was 13 votes of sympathy passed.

In 1991 the one-way traffic system and parking restrictions were again discussed.

Call on the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to promote the town.

In May there were 15 votes of sympathy passed.

Pollution of the Alley River was an ongoing issue.

AGM on 9 July

Chairman: P.J. Barry, Vice Chairman: Con O'Leary

Dissatisfaction was expressed that the Council landfill site at Kealanine was closed and causing difficulties for the public.

A Special meeting on 3 September expressing anxiety re Drombrow factory still being empty. "Comm. O'Leary proposed that all I.D.A. officials should be placed on three year contracts and that these only be renewed on results. This was seconded by Commissioner John J. Connolly".

John Deasy, ACM attended meetings.

1992 when unauthorised caravan halting at Harbour view discussed with the Manager.

By letter dated 7 February Commissioner Barry tendered his resignation.

A deputation of residents from Glengarriff Road area were complaining that the pedestrian crossing was not being used properly.

Underage drinking of concern at meetings.

In March the co-option was deferred to the April Meeting. On 14 April P.J. Barry, Marino Street, was co-opted to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of P.J. Barry.

Discussion on itinerants at Harbour View was ongoing

Discussions on Bantry Water Augmentation Scheme were ongoing

AGM on 14 July

Chairman: Con O'Leary, Vice Chairman: Michael Milner

D.A. Daly was ACM (1 meeting)

Water supply again under discussion.

12 January 1993 Barry Condron, IDA attended the meeting. A full discussion took place on the Drombrow factory and lands adjoining. Better communication between the IDA and Commissioners was recommended. "Commissioners Kingston and O'Sullivan left the meeting in protest against Mr. Condron's attitude and general attitude of the I.D.A. in relation to Bantry"

Commissioners were exploring the possibility of running an advertising campaign to promote Bantry.

AGM on 13 July

Chairman: John O'Shea (from hat), Vice Chairman: Thomas O'Sullivan on casting vote of Chairman.

Casual trading on the Square was raised.

Noted that 1 caravan was remaining at Harbour View.

January 1994, Barry Condron, IDA, wrote offering to attend a Meeting but asking for the list of items for discussion in advance. A list was forwarded and March meeting was proposed for his attendance.

16 Votes of sympathy recorded.

Discussions ongoing on topics including Bantry water, Casual trading and the Halting site.

10 March a Special meeting with Barry Condron of IDA. Commissioners John O'Shea and John J Connolly turned up as did Humphery Desmond, Town Clerk. Barry Condron, Regional Manager IDA was also present. No others turned up so the meeting "was abandoned by the Chairman".

Sunday 3 April a Special meeting to pay tribute to the late Commissioner Thomas Holland who had died the previous day.

April a discussion was held on the Draft County Development Plan.

AGM - First Meeting of newly elected Commissioners on 20 June 1994

Donal Casey  
Vivian Callaghan  
Sean Baker  
Tom O'Donoghue  
Pat O'Donovan-Levis  
John O'Shea  
Con O'Leary  
John Connolly  
Michael Milner

Chairman: John Connolly, Vice Chairman: Michael Milner

In July the Commissioners felt they needed a ground floor meeting room as the current one was inadequate they felt as their headquarters.

24 votes of sympathy were recorded.

Town Traffic – They considered including parking restrictions and altering traffic direction flows in New St, High St, Bridge St, Chapel St, and William St.

Itinerant camping at Harbour View was discussed at a Special meeting in October.

A playground was sought and a petition was presented by Commissioner Milner at the November meeting.

In December good wishes were extended to D.A. Murphy, Manager on his retirement.

On 14 March 1995 a Special meeting was held to pay respects to the late Commissioner P.J. Barry who passed away earlier that day.

Celebrations to mark the 200 anniversary of the Wolfe Tone expedition in 1796 were discussed and plans for same were considered.

In April it was proposed and agreed to remove the pedestrian crossing on Glengarriff road asap.

On 16 May a meeting to discuss proposed changes to layout of the Square and also traffic and parking layout.

AGM on 27 June

Chairman: Sean Baker, Vice Chairman: Pat O'Donovan-Levis

In September a Planning application was lodged for the Square redevelopment.

Halting site, ongoing discussions taking place.

Also discussions on leasing the Town Park to the GAA.

In December the Engineer informed the meeting that preparatory works on the Square redevelopment had commenced.

February 1996 Mary Fitzgerald attended the meeting as Clerical Officer in the Engineers Office with a view to taking over as Town Clerk.  
The redevelopment of the Square was underway.

Meeting on 12 March and Mary Fitzgerald attended as Town Clerk.  
County Architect, Gerard O'Callaghan, attended and outlined the works on the Square.  
A Traffic Warden was requested to be appointed asap.  
The work on the Square had its critics.

Discussions were ongoing on a possible car park being provided on the Community Association property at Reenrour and also a playground there.  
The By-Pass Road was under discussion and the Land Purchase Officer was to approach landowners.  
A deputation was received in June from the Casual Traders.

AGM held on 19 June  
Chairman: Sean Baker, Vice Chairman: Pat O'Donovan-Levis

Minister Howlin officially opened the upgraded Square on 17 September 1996.

A proposal for a car park on a section of Dock area was being discussed.  
12 November meeting at which a letter of resignation from Con O'Leary was read.  
A Plebiscite was held in Bishop Lucey Place to change the name to Reenrour East. Votes in favour of change 158 and Votes against change 51. Agreed to change the name to Reenrour East.

It was agreed to initiate a planning process for a car park on part of the slob to cater for 68 cars spaces.  
Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws were presented by the County Council.  
The old Courthouse could possibly be a Tourist Office – discussions taking place with Cork Kerry Tourism.

January 1997 and the Planning was proceeding for a car park at the Slob area.  
Anne O'Leary was co-opted in place of Con O'Leary who took up a post as District Justice.

In February a delegation was received from the GAA querying if the Commissioners would sell the Town Park to the GAA.  
Ted Manley A/ACM (1 meeting)

In June a lease was signed with Community Association for use of the property as public car park.

AGM on 17 June 1997  
Chairman: Pat O'Donovan-Levis, Vice Chairman: Donal Casey

In July the car part at the Community Association property was opened.  
There were still ongoing discussions with the GAA re the Town Park and the provision of a playground.  
In August the sale to the GAA was agreed.

21 November a Special meeting to extend sympathy to family of the late Donal McCarthy former Town Commissioner.

There was concern at the delay in finalising the sale to the GAA.

January 1998 ongoing discussion re a Bond from the GAA for the rent of the Town Park. In February the Commissioners agreed to sell most of the Town Park to the GAA for £75,500 excluding a portion abutting the N71 to be kept for a playground. The money from the sale was to be used to buy playground equipment.

On 23 February a Special meeting was held to extend a vote of sympathy to wife and family of former Commissioner, Justin McCarthy, Rock House.

Ted Manley was acting ACM.

There were lengthy discussions re the GAA Bond.

Itinerants caravan on the road to the old railway pier were of concern.

By 10 June the Contract with the GAA was to be signed.

AGM 1998

Chairman: Donal Casey, Vice Chairman: Thomas O'Donoghue

From the Minutes one could say these years were a bit turbulent at times.

Issues over type and supplier of playground equipment.

By November the drainage was complete on the playground site.

A Waste Transfer Station was proposed at Seafield – again turbulent and lengthy discussions taking place.

1999 and the Waste Transfer Station still under discussion; a circular will be in the post shortly to householders in Bantry area.

Still more hassle on the playground equipment and order finally placed in late February 1999.

Going to the press and radio was a common feature or threat.

By May the playground equipment was installed and the car park area to be tarmacadamed and opened before the end of May.

Tenders were received for a car park at the slob.

AGM and a new group elected. They were:-

Sean Baker  
Anne O'Leary  
John Connolly  
Thomas O'Donoghue  
Aiden McCarthy  
Patrick Kelly  
Vivian Junior Callaghan  
Eugene Cronin  
Thomas Barry

Chairman: Aiden McCarthy, Vice Chairman: Sean Baker

30 June a vote of sympathy was passed on death of former Commissioner, Matt Kingston.

The Manager said the contractor had been given the go-ahead for the car park at the slob. Again concerns amongst members with some dashing to the radio. Casual trading was still under discussion.

11 January 2000, this was the final meeting as Town Clerk for Mary Fitzgerald; Elma McCarthy taking over in February.

The Commissioners decided to renew the St Patrick's Day Parade for the town. Casual Trading and the halting site were under regular discussion.

AGM on 7 June

Chairman: Sean Baker, Vice Chairman: Thomas Barry

For the August Bank Holiday weekend the Commissioners organised a Barbeque & Music Festival.

2001 – There were ongoing concerns about the safety of the roof of the Handball Alley. Query on the relief road progress and Casual trading were discussed.

AGM held on 18 June

Chairman: Thomas Barry, Vice Chairman: John Connolly.

In October a dangerous building notice had been served on Bantry Town Commissioners and members of the Handball Alley by Cork County Council. The roof has since been removed and the area made safe. The cost to be recouped from the owners and or occupiers.

The sale of the Old Railway Pier to the Harbour Commissioners was approved by the Minister for the Environment & Local Government.

This marked the end of Bantry Town Commissioners.

2002 and the former Bantry Town Commissioners were now called Bantry Town Council.

8 January was the inaugural meeting of Bantry Town Council.

John Deasy, ACM outlined that Jack Matson was taking over as Town Manager. He was the newly appointed Director of Services for Cork County Council in West Cork.

Casual Trading was frequently discussed as was the Relief Road. The Land Purchase Officer has met landowners along part of the relief road.

AGM on 25 June

Mayor: John Connolly, Deputy Mayor: Anne O'Leary

In July Liam Ennis was acting Town Manager.

Noreen McCarthy acted as Town Clerk on many occasions now and over the following years.

In September the solicitor confirmed that £50,000 (€63486.90) has been lodged with the Harbour Board's Solicitors for the purchase of the Railway Pier and the final papers are being drawn up.

2003 – a total of 21 Meetings were held over this year.  
Discussions on the halting site were ongoing

AGM held on 24 June

Mayor: Vivian Jnr O’Callaghan, Deputy Mayor: Sean Baker

Ian O’Regan was A/Town Engineer for holiday relief.  
Liam Ennis was A/Town Manager.

13 January 2004 – this was Elma McCarthys last meeting. She is moving to Cork City Council.

A Special Meeting Sunday 1 February was held to extend a vote of sympathy to the relatives of Daithi O’Connell who was a member between 1960 and 1967.

On 10 February Oliver Staunton-Keane took over as Town Clerk.  
Cllr. Sean Baker announced he would be tendering his resignation as a Town Councillor and his daughter Laetitia would be putting her name forward.

On 9 March Laetitia Baker was co-opted and attended the Meeting, she was appointed Deputy Mayor at the April meeting.

Planning Permission is to be applied for to provide a car park at the Ball Alley site.

AGM on 21 June and newly elected Commissioners:-

Vivian Jnr O’Callaghan  
Mary Hegarty  
Aiden McCarthy  
Eugene Cronin  
Thomas Barry  
Pat Bonna Kelly  
Letty Baker  
Thomas O’Donoghue  
Anne O’Leary

Mayor: Pat Bonna Kelly, Deputy Mayor: Mary Hegarty

25 January 2005 Olive Staunton-Keane was relinquishing her post as Town Clerk.

On 1 February the St Patricks Day Parade was discussed. Noreen McCarthy as Town Clerk.

8 February Pauline Lynch was welcomed as Town Clerk.

T.G. Murphy was A/Town Manager.

He outlined that Pauline Lynch would be assisted by Maura Baker and Noreen McCarthy and Members were asked to conduct business with these people on the following times:

Tues, Wed and Thurs 10.30am – 12.00pm “Maura Baker and Noreen McCarthy shall administer all issues relating to the organisation of the St Patricks Day Parade” said Ted Murphy.

Casual Trading was again under discussion.

5 April and this was the final meeting for Pauline Lynch as Town Clerk.

A Meeting on 24 May was attended by Niall O’Keeffe, the new Town Clerk.  
A total of 25 votes of sympathy was recorded.

Relief Road – negotiations ongoing re land purchase was the report.  
Mobile fast food outlets on Square of concern.

AGM on 14 June  
Mayor: Letty Baker,

On 11 October Anne O’Leary tendered her immediate resignation from the Town Council  
and presented a letter from Mr Tim O’Leary consenting to a nomination.  
On 8 November Tim O’Leary was co-opted.

On 10 January 2006 approx 80 residents attended the meeting to voice their concerns about a  
possible halting site being located in the Church Road / Slip area.

Ongoing discussions about the Relief Road and Parking Bye-laws.

11 April and David Campbell was introduced as the new Town Clerk.

A Heritage trail had been established and it was successful.

It was agreed that the road to the West of the Church of Ireland would be known as ‘Wolfe  
Tone Lane’ and the road to the West of the former Methodist Church as Marino Lane’

AGM on 20 June  
Mayor: Aiden McCarthy, Deputy Mayor: Mary Hegarty

On 10 October it was agreed that an offer of €25,000 from the GAA would be accepted as  
full and final settlement for rent.

Martina O’Driscoll was acting Town Clerk

The “Spirit of Love” monument was unveiled at the Abbey site.

13 February 2007 “Cllr Kelly aired his frustration over the fact that a Town Manager was not  
in attendance”

16 February, Members agreed to accept €25,000 from Bantry Blues GAA club as an upfront  
final settlement. “In the event of the sale of the property, a further sum of €50,000 is to be  
paid to Bantry Town Council within 4 weeks of the close of sale”

There is a need for a water conservation programme to be put in place the Manager said at the  
April Meeting.

Disappointment was expressed that a permanent Town Manager has not yet been appointed.

AGM on 19 June  
Mayor: Mary Hegarty, Deputy Mayor: Pat Bonna Kelly

Lack of adequate water in town was discussed and queries re the Relief road status. Anti social behaviour and speeding in town were also discussed.

February 2008 recorded that works on Bantry Sewerage Scheme had commenced.

Casual Trading, Litter in town were discussed  
Relief road documentation for planning application is being prepared was reported.

AGM on 10 June

Mayor: Vivian Jnr. O'Callaghan, Deputy Mayor: Letty Baker

Traveller issues continuing to be discussed at many meetings.

On 10 February 2009 and total frustration was expressed by the Councillors that no progress was being made on the halting site. A motion by Cllr Kelly and seconded by Cllr O'Leary to suspend the meeting was agreed and the meeting concluded.

March and Casual trading again for discussion.

May 2009. This was Frank O'Donovan, Town Engineer, last meeting.

AGM on 15 June, newly elected Councillors:-

Aiden McCarthy  
Eugene Cronin  
Mary Hegarty  
Thomas Barry  
Rory O'Callaghan  
Diarmuid Murphy  
Pat Bonna Kelly  
Kathleen Tessayman  
John Connolly

Mayor: Thomas Barry, Deputy Mayor: Rory O'Callaghan

Ruth O'Brien attended as Town Engineer.

Halting Site dominated meetings  
Casual trading dominated meetings  
Unemployment in Bantry also discussed.

Meeting on 18 February 2010 at which Supt Horgan of the Garda Station in Bantry attended. He gave following statistics:

<b><u>Offence</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Assault causing harm	7	5
Minor assault	34	27
Criminal damage	81	51
Drugs	34	15
Public order	135	133
Theft from cars	12	28

AGM held on 8 June

Mayor: John Connolly, Deputy Mayor: Rory O'Callaghan  
Deirdre Collins is the new Town Clerk  
Halting site again discussed.

Under discussion for 2011 were the St Patricks Day Parade and Casual Trading.

Sunday 10 April – a Special Meeting to pass a Vote of Sympathy to family of late Paddy Minihane former Town Commissioner.

A lot coming under AOB – local tidying, cleaning, lining, signs, litter

AGM held on 14 June

Mayor: Rory O'Callaghan, Deputy Mayor: John Connolly

A Joint Policing Committee proposal is to be discussed.

In 2012 a meeting with the NRA was to take place re the relief road project.

The Fadó Festival was organised and coordinated  
Casual Trading was again discussed.

AGM on 19 June

Mayor: Kathleen Tessayman, Deputy Mayor: Aiden McCarthy

Casual Trading and a pilot scheme was proposed to try and regulate casual trading.

January 2013 - Eimear O'Neill is Town Clerk

The Councillors felt that the Car park near the Boys Club needed upgrading  
Repairs to playground were also required.  
The Fadó Festival was organised.

AGM was held on 11 June 2013.

Mayor: Aiden McCarthy, Deputy Mayor: Diarmuid Murphy

In September a vote of sympathy was passed on the death of John O'Shea, former Town Commissioner.

Casual trading was regulated and was being kept under review.

2014 – the final year. The assets of the Town Council were listed for transfer to Cork County Council. The Minute Books are in the care of the Archives Department of Cork County Council and we be scanned and available for review. The cost of this was included in the Town Council budget.

On Saturday 26 April a function was held in Maritime Hotel, Bantry to mark the end of the Town Council. This was co-ordinated by the Mayor, Aiden McCarthy. It afforded an opportunity to look back over the years at changes in the town using photographs and video footage. Many former Town Commissioners and descendants of Commissioners spoke briefly at the function recalling times past.

The final meeting of Bantry Town Council was held in Aras Beantraí on 20 May 2014. Councillors present were:

Aiden McCarthy (Mayor)  
Eugene Cronin  
Mary Hegarty  
Thomas Barry  
Rory O'Callaghan  
Diarmuid Murphy  
Pat Bonna Kelly  
Kathleen Tessayman  
John Connolly

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:-

“That Bantry Town Council support the further development of the Boy’s Club for community resources and if some extra ground is needed to expand the buildings it would be facilitated.” – Cllr. Aiden McCarthy proposed and Cllr. Eugene Cronin seconded.

“That Bantry Town Council would request Cork County Council to endeavour to complete the sculpture by father Donie Keohane which Bantry Town Council commissioned a number of years ago.” – Cllr. Thomas Barry proposed and Cllr. Aiden McCarthy seconded.

“That Bantry Town Council support the further development of Páirc Wolfe Tone by Bantry Blues GAA and that we would agree to the relocation of the playground to facilitate this development provided a suitable alternative location is identified and that matters related to the relocation are agreed.” – Cllr. Thomas Barry proposed and Cllr. Eugene Cronin seconded.

The Councillors also agreed to set up an advocacy group on a voluntary basis in order to elect a Mayoral Council which would elect five persons onto a Mayoral Council where each person would act as Mayor for a year during a five year period from 2014 – 2019.

Members hoped that in the future there would be a Town Council in Bantry again.

### **List of Officials:**

#### **Town Clerk**

John O'Callaghan  
Mary Galvin (nee O'Callaghan)  
Breda Dwyer  
Humphery Desmond  
Mary Fitzgerald  
Elma McCarthy  
Noreen McCarthy  
Olive Staunton-Keane  
Pauline Lynch  
Niall O'Keeffe  
David Campbell  
Martina O'Driscoll  
Deirdre Collins  
Eimear O'Neill

#### **Town Manager**

James O'Mahony  
Thomas A Hayes  
Michael J O'Mahony  
Joseph K O'Hare  
Richard B Haslam  
John (Sean) Hayes  
Eddie Marnane  
David A Murphy  
David A Daly  
John Deasy  
Paddy Deasy  
Ted Manley  
Jack Matson  
Liam Ennis  
Ted Murphy  
Niall O'Mahony  
Jerome C. O'Sullivan  
Marian Salter

#### **Town Engineer**

Robert Kelly (Consultant)  
J.J. Roycroft  
Charles McCarthy  
Wally Lee  
Michael Crowley  
Jack Matson  
Fred Willis  
Sean O'Brasail  
Michael Corkery  
Michael Murphy  
John Flynn  
Frank O'Donovan  
Ian O'Regan  
Ruth O'Brien

## Town Commissioners / Town Councillors

Benjamin O'Connor  
George William Biggs  
John Cullinane  
Daniel Joseph Donovan  
James Gilhooly  
Joseph O'Brien  
William Henry O'Sullivan  
Robert Swanton  
William Warner  
Michael O'Driscoll  
Daniel O'Donoghue  
Michael Minehane  
John Sullivan  
John F Lyons  
Robert Kelly  
Patrick O'Leary  
John McCarthy  
Daniel Lyons  
Denis Downey  
Daniel D Cauty  
T. J. McCarthy  
David O'Mahony  
John Levis  
John Gilhooly  
Jeremiah Connolly  
Michael Breen  
James Clarke  
Timothy Donoghue  
Abraham F Good  
Raphael P. Keyes  
Robert Lynch  
Jeremiah O'Leary  
Philip Harrington  
Patrick O'Keefe  
Edward Cotter  
Mortimer O'Sullivan  
Mark Sullivan  
Michael McCarthy  
John O'Sullivan N.T.  
Denis O'Connell  
Jerome Cotter  
William Sullivan  
Charles O'Donovan (Main St)  
Thomas McCarthy  
Charles O'Donovan (William St)  
Daniel Cremin  
Timothy Harrington  
Donal Dix  
Donal E. Chance  
Patrick Keane  
Daniel McCarthy  
John Daniel Kane  
Michael Fitzgerald

Justin McCarthy (1950 - 1954 on his death)  
Jeremiah Horgan  
Kathleen Horgan  
Cornelius McCarthy  
Jeremiah Hourihane  
Sean McCarthy  
Thomas Holland  
Daniel McGrath  
Joseph Cremin  
Thomas Spillane  
Sylvester Cotter  
William C O'Donovan  
David O'Connell  
Daniel McCarthy, Blackrock Rd  
Daniel McCarthy, Barrack Rd  
Daniel Driscoll  
Jeremiah Alexander O'Donovan  
Cornelius Kelly  
Justin McCarthy, Rock House  
Donal McCarthy  
James O'Shea  
Patrick Minehane  
Donal Lynch  
James J Crowley  
Michael Keohane  
Eithne O'Mahony  
Patrick Joseph Barry  
Neill Clarke  
John Joseph Connolly  
John M Connolly  
Con O'Leary  
John Patrick O'Shea  
Gerry Shallow  
Tom O'Sullivan  
Michael Milner  
Matt Kingston  
Donal Casey  
Vivian Callaghan  
Sean Baker  
Tom O'Donoghue  
Pat O'Donovan-Levis  
Anne O'Leary  
Aiden McCarthy  
Patrick Kelly  
Vivian Junior Callaghan  
Eugene Cronin  
Thomas Barry  
Laetitia Baker  
Mary Hegarty  
Tim O'Leary  
Rory O'Callaghan  
Diarmuid Murphy  
Kathleen Tessayman

**The End**

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