

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag
held on Wednesday 11 December 2019 at 4.00 pm
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Memorial Hall, Muinebheag**

Members present: Cllr Michael Doran, Cllr Andy Gladney, Cllr Arthur McDonald,
Cllr William Quinn & Cllr Tommy Kinsella (Cathaoirleach).

In Attendance: Padraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Kieran Cullinane,
A/Director of Services, Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer,
Josephine Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, Maria Ahearne,
Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer.

1. Welcome

The Cathaoirleach, all members, Acting Director & Officials welcomed Mr Padraig O’Gorman as the new district manager for the Muinebheag area. Mr O’Gorman thanked all and said he was looking forward to working with the members and officials in the district with the development of ongoing and new projects.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag on 6 November 2019

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Quinn seconded by Cllr McDonald that the Minutes for the meeting of the Municipal District of Muinebheag on 6 November 2019 be confirmed and taken as read.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Mr Crowley circulated the Engineers Roads Service Plan Report for the area. The report was noted by all members.

The Councillors raised a number of items to be addressed, including:

- A large dip on the Bagenalstown to Leighlinbridge Road at Rathellen subject to flooding and to list this road for consideration under a 3 year programme to resurface the full road starting from the Leighlinbridge side.
- Councillor Quinn asked that serious consideration be given to putting a roundabout at the Royal Oak Junction over the next 5 years. Mr Crowley advised that the remedial works were due to commence late January 2020, subject to the speed limit review.
- Pruning of the poplar trees on the Borris Road just outside Bagenalstown
- Upgrading of Borris playground next year

Municipal District of Muinebheag

- Road markings on the way up to the golf club to be renewed.
- Concern regarding the road surface at Glenaharry to which Mr Crowley replied that re-texturing works have been carried out to improve the surface.
- A letter to issue to landowners regarding hedgecutting
- A request for drain cleaning to be carried out again
- Carparking near the railway station. Mr Crowley to bring a detailed report to the next meeting.
- Concern regarding the reinstatement of Kilree lane after upgrade works to Pump Station by Irish Water
- Concern regarding reinstatement of road verges after recent broadband works
- Surface water at Pound Lane in Borris
- Acknowledging that the wall was being repaired at Dunleckney by the Barrow by Waterways Ireland

A discussion ensued regarding the public convenience and the concern regarding the suggestion to relocate it. It was agreed that relocation was not for consideration and that the lease term be reviewed for renegotiation if this proved to be an option. Whilst the cost of the public convenience was considered high the alternative to supply a building with a toilet to meet all the requirements regarding accessibility, fit for purpose, hygiene, maintenance, personnel and keyholding the current system was probably the best option.

The Councillors asked for clarity regarding the new boundaries from January 2020.

Councillor Gladney, with the support of all the members thanked Mr Crowley for all his work and dedication throughout the year of 2019.

- (b) Ms Kavanagh circulated the Housing Report for the area adding that the casual vacancies were now listed as requested at the previous meeting. The report was noted by all members. The Councillors agreed that other alternatives were to be explored to meet the housing needs of Muinebheag. Ms Kavanagh, in response to Cllr McDonald said she would confirm the number of casual vacancies held by Respond! for the district.

Other items raised included:

- The need to investigate the purchase of rural sites for development, however raising planning as a concern here.
- The funding of masterplans within the department
- To encourage private developers to invest in the district

Other concerns raised were to be addressed through the review of the County Development Plan. The Councillors asked that a representative from Planning attend the next meeting to address rural area planning, clusters, the extension of services over bridges and general questions relevant to the district.

On the proposal of Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Quinn Mr Cullinane agreed to write to Irish Water to highlight the importance of capital investment into rural areas within the district.

4. Correspondence

Ms Ahearne read the reply received from Mr Marc Kierans, Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment informing the members that the area referred to in Prospecting licence area (PLA) 3407, currently held by Backstairs Lithium advising that the web link to OPALS mapviewer could be accessed if more information was required. Mr Cullinane informed the members that the licence was to drill only and not to extract.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the news regarding the announcement of the Sports Capital Grants and extended a thank you to all involved.

Cllr McDonald asked that a site for an All Weather Surface Pitch be located for Muinebheag. The Cathaoirleach suggested that a specific meeting be arranged to discuss grants.

5. Cathaoirleach Awards

Nominations were invited to be submitted by the members to Ms Ahearne or the Cathaoirleach for consideration for the Cathaoirleach Awards. A date will be circulated when agreed.

6. The next meeting date was scheduled for Wednesday 5 February 2020 at 4.00pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator