

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting
held on Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 4.00 pm
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag**

Members present: Cllr Arthur McDonald (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr Michael Doran
Cllr Tommy Kinsella
Cllr Andy Gladney
Cllr Willie Quinn

In attendance: Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport&Infrastructure
Mr Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag MD,
Mr Brian O’Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Ms Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting
7 December 2022**

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Gladney seconded by Cllr Quinn, following a show of hands that the minutes for the meeting of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting held on 7 December 2022 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

All agreed

2. Matters Arising

No matters raised.

3. Votes of Sympathy

The Cathaoirleach and Members extended their sympathy to the families of:

Deirdre Caplice (née Lee), Stratford-on-Slaney, Grangecon and late of Baltinglass.

Darren Darcy, Conway Park, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow.

Thomas (Tommy) Pender, Kilree, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow.

Eileen Doran (née Wallace), Mohullen, Ballymurphy, Carlow/Graiguenamanagh, Kilkenny.

Nan (Anne) Meaney (née Coady), Coneykeare, Leighlinbridge, Carlow.

Patrick J (PJ) O’Hare, Glenamoy, Leighlinbridge, Carlow

Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

4. Roads MD Report

Mr J Crowley referred to the increase in the number of potholes as a result of the heavy rain and frost since October adding that some works were delayed also as a result and went through the circulated roads report, addressing any questions raised by the members including;

- Support in regard to a pedestrian crossing at Lidl near Eastwood
- A request and consider resurfacing the streets in Bagenalstown
- To check gullies and drains following on from the poor weather
- Ongoing issues in Leighlinbridge regarding sunken drains
- Improved signage at Borris Road, Bagenalstown regarding speed limit
- To liaise with Irish Water regarding proposed new watermain upgrade works at Tinnahinch as these works are now urgent.
- Link/pathway at lands at Clashganny to be listed for discussion
- An update regarding additional funding to complete the footpath between Ballytighlea Cross roads to Ballytighlea Bridge
- To extend works on back Carlow Road by Jordan's to Harrow Cross
- To extend surfacing on the road between Bagenalstown and Harrow Cross, and to extend surfacing works at Ballycormick
- Request for an update regarding the Ringfort Site at the family resource centre, Bagenalstown
- To assess the pedestrian crossing on the Royal Oak Road near Mc Cullagh's shop

5. Housing Report

Mr B O'Donovan referred to the circulated housing report, and addressed any questions raised by the members including:

- To check the planning conditions regarding residents looking for privacy screening at Royal Oak RESPOND! Units.
- Noted that an update will follow regarding delay for Ballyknockan, Leighlinbridge project
- A request for members to submit details of any vacant/derelict units in Bagenalstown especially in the town centre.
- Noted that the Town Centre First Team are pulling information together regarding Borris
- Noted the €5k income increase in January for housing applications.
- Clarification regarding rent amounts with a guidance of 35% of total income being the rate. Mr B O'Donovan agreed to send a list of allowances to the councillors.
- Noted that an update will follow regarding Green Drake
- Request for an update regarding Manor House

The Cathaoirleach and members thanked Mr O'Donovan for the report and the housing team for their continued work.

6. Parking at Station Road

Mr J Crowley referred to the circulated report regarding the ongoing parking issues at Station Road, Muinebheag noting that there has been ongoing issues along Station Road with all day parking. The issues are primarily as a result of Íarnrod Éireann having a daily parking charge of €4 for parking in the Íarnrod Éireann Carpark. There is no pay parking in operation in Bagnelstown, as a result people that are regular commuters on the train will attempt to avail of the free roadside parking if possible, a saving of €20 per week. This then results in most parking bays on Station Road being occupied by all day parkers. Additional problems have resulted in persons parking in the new housing estate of Grinawn Court up on footpaths. It was anticipated that parking along Station Road would be primarily used by persons going into the Bagnelstown Town Centre for shopping and other activities.

Mr Crowley concluded the report referring to photos circulated stating that there are ongoing issues with all day parking along Station Road. The fundamental issue is that there is no payparking in Bagnelstown and there is a fee for parking in the Íarnrod Éireann Carpark at the Train Station. As a result, commuters will park on the roads adjacent to the Train Station where there is no charge. This is using up a lot of parking space in the town, noting that in Carlow Town commuters are happy to pay the parking fees in the Railway Station carpark as there is payparking on the streets in Carlow Town. This is not the case in Bagnelstown. It is unsatisfactory to have nearly 50 carparking spaces sitting idle in a central location.

Mr P O’Gorman noted that the parking could be regulated on the street by the introduction of parking by-laws, adding that we need to link up with Íarnrod Éireann to try come up with a resolution.

7. Muinebheag Public Realm Plan Update

Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that he is hopeful to have a plan finalised in the coming weeks and will keep the members informed.

8. Correspondence

Mr P O’Gorman referred to the circulated correspondence from the National Transport Authority noting that the competitive process to secure provision of services on the proposed route Carlow – New Ross has started. The Expression of Interest stage has closed – we plan to get the next stage of requesting tenders for the specified level of service to the market by the end of this week. Thereafter our timetable to delivery is governed by the competitive process, which is required by national and EU law, but we plan to secure the service during the first half of 2023.

The members welcomed this update and asked to be kept informed regarding the bus stops on this route.

9. Any Other Business

Cllr A Gladney asked for an update regarding Ballymoon Castle to which Mr P O’Gorman confirmed he would follow up with Mr M Brennan who was in negotiations currently.

Cathaoirleach Awards 2023 - Presentation to Civil Defence/Volunteers

Cllr A McDonald, Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr P Cahill, Civil Defence Officer, giving a brief history on the formation of Civil Defence on behalf of the other volunteers present. Mr Ger Doyle, Assistant Civil Defence Officer gave a rundown on the technical equipment side, explaining how the search and rescue technology has progressed and how they provide a community service and the support that was provided to the vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Each member thanked the Civil Defence sincerely for the huge commitment that they give to the community on a voluntary basis with Cllr W Quinn saying how grateful he was on behalf of his family for their assistance in the past.

Mr P Cahill thanked the members for the kind words of support and the Cathaoirleach made the following presentations;

Medals produced by Minister for Defence for circulation to all Civil Defence personnel in the Country that were involved in Covid 19 pandemic operations:

- Ashling Hutton
- Enda Curran, *on behalf of his son* Aidan Curran

First Aid Responder Certificates

- Ashling Hutton
- David Geoghegan
- Ger Doyle
- James Kavanagh
- Pádraig Cahill
- Enda Curran

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6 April 2023, unless there is any matters arising in advance of this date.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator