

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting
held on Wednesday 18 July 2022 at 4.00 pm
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag**

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

In attendance: Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure
Barry Dowling, Executive Technician, Muinebheag MD,
Kieran Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise
Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer.
Brian O’Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing

Apologies: Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Annual General Meeting 15 June 2022

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Kinsella seconded by Cllr Quinn, following a show of hands that the minutes for the meeting of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Annual General Meeting 15 June 2022 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.
All agreed

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 15 June 2022

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr Doran seconded by Cllr Kinsella, following a show of hands that the minutes for the meeting of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 15 June 2022 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.
All agreed

Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

3. Roads Service Plan Report

Roads Service Plan Report

Mr Dowling circulated the Roads report on behalf of the Engineer.

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

- An update regarding funding for works at Ballygowan
- To confirm if a new white line/stop sign can be installed at Tomard, near the hill
- If a concealed entrance sign can be put up on Rathvillen Road
- To investigate the installation of a ramp in Fenagh below where the pedestrian crossing is located
- The disappointment regarding the news that the Kavanagh bus will not be coming through Bagenalstown on its route. The Director hoped the Rural

Link would help when the Carlow New Ross route is in operation later in the year.

- To establish if the road opposite Dillons can be dug up and repaired

4. Housing Report

Mr O'Donovan presented the Housing Report and addressed a number of questions including:

- Noting that the self help grant statistics were listed on the report as requested, showing at total of 16 grants to the value of value of 12k
- An update regarding the housing units in Borris
- Confirmation that an energy survey of housing properties for all council houses is currently underway
- Confirmation that specially adapted houses cannot be bought out and is noted as part of the tenancy agreement
- Informing the members that a new scheme 'Croí Cónaithe' is launched to upgrade derelict properties in urban areas
- To check out infestation of rats at Woodlawn Park
- The appointment of Fiona O'Neill as acting Director of Services to establish a plan to assist with the housing & other needs for the Ukrainian refugees within the county, noting that 88 pledges to support/applications received for the county with assessments underway. The number of Ukrainians entering Ireland is at 43k at the moment expected to be in the region of 50k by end of August.

The members thanked Mr O'Donovan for the updates and for the works underway.

5. Bagenalstown Public Realm Improvement Scheme

Mr Comerford, Head of Economic Development circulated drawings for the proposed Bagenalstown public realm improvements informing the members that he had sought clarification from planning recommending that as the area is a special area of conservation (SAC) it is recommended that the application should be submitted to An Board Pleanála (ABP) noting that this will delay delivery of the project but is the correct course of action. The closing date for applications to be submitted is Friday 22 July 2022 for a €500k grant.

Cllr Doran expressed some concern regarding the traffic management. Mr O'Gorman, Director agreed that the traffic management had to work and informed the members that a team from the roads department worked on the plan. The members agreed that they had concerns but trusted the roads department to come up with a working solution, agreeing that the river is the public realm for the area. Mr Comerford outlined that approval for the project is the first step with a vision and concept for the area, noting that delivery of the project is 18 months away. On the proposal of Cllr Gladney, seconded by Cllr Kinsella all members welcomed the news of getting funding for the Bagenalstown area and agreed that they were impressed with the vision presented to them.

6. Casual Trading Byelaws Muinebheag

Mr Comerford, Head of Economic Development informed the members that casual trading byelaws were being established by Mr Michael Rainey, Director of Services,

Municipal District of Muinebheag

Planning, Economic Development and Corporate for 3/4 locations within each municipal district with the intention to bring a draft document to the next meeting with more details. This is to regularise trading on public lands at a cost in the region of €500 - €1,000 per annum. Once the byelaws are in place they will be regulated. Mr Comerford asked the members to contact him with any proposed locations for applications.

7. Building Acquisitions Measures 2022

Mr Comerford, Head of Economic Development informed the members of an announcement made by Minister Heather Humphreys regarding a new funding stream to support Local Authorities to purchase vacant and derelict buildings which can be converted for community use with an allocation of €400k for Bagenalstown. Mr O’Gorman welcomed this news and the other funding streams being made available to Bagenalstown MD saying that the next 2 years were an exciting time for the district.

Mr Comerford informed the members that he would have more information for the members on completion of the acquisition of the building and would keep them up to date with progress.

8. Correspondence

Ms Ahearne read out correspondence from Ms Orla Barrett, Senior Engineer, Water Services as a point of information regarding the demolition of water tower – Leighlinbridge, which is now unviable to repair. Ms Barrett wished to inform the members that Carlow County Council in consultation with Irish Water agreed the prudent approach would be to proceed with demolition of the tower and the return of the area to grassland. A tender to complete these works was run and a contractor has been appointed. It is anticipated that the works will take place in the coming 8 to 12 weeks.

The members noted the correspondence.

9. Any Other Business

The members thanked the Director and officials for all the work being done to promote tourism and the growth of Bagenalstown municipal district and asked for an update to the Royal Oak safety plan to be listed on the September agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7 September 2022

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator