

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 4.00 pm**

**in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag**

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

**Attended Virtually:** Cllr Tommy Kinsella

**In attendance:** Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport&Infrastructure  
Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag MD,  
Kieran Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise  
Eamonn Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services  
Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Brian O’Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing

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

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

**Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

**2. Disposal of St. Canice’s Credit Union Limited Freehold**

Mr E Brophy referenced the site outlined in red on the circulated map, showing Credit Union, Main Street, Bagenalstown to the members and asked for the members approval to bring it to the November full council meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr Gladney, seconded by Cllr McDonald, following a show of hands the members agreed to the proposal to consider the disposal of St. Canice’s Credit Union Limited Freehold, Main Street, Bagenalstown.

**All agreed.**

**3. Lease agreement for lands at St Mullin’s**

Mr E Brophy asked the members if they would consider an extension to a lease for lands at St Mullin’s as outlined on a circulated map in pink. The proposed lease is for a nominal fee for the lands to be taken care of until such time as Carlow County Council need the lands. The members considered the details and agreed that the contract for the lease can be drawn up and asked that it be circulated to the members before it is issued. The members asked that the contract include that the lease would be considered for a maximum of 3 years, with confirmation of insurance in place, that the shrubs on the land are not to be interfered with and that the lease can be ceased with one months’ notice.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Quinn, following a show of hands the members agreed that the contract can be drawn up and can be listed on the agenda for consideration of a S183 agreement at the next full council meeting for the lease at lands at St Mullin's as outlined on the circulated map in pink.

**All agreed.**

#### **4. Royal Oak Pipe Upgrade**

Mr P O'Gorman read out the following reply as received from Irish Water: "Irish Water and Carlow County Council Water Services Operation Teams have been working collaboratively to examine options and develop a design for the connection of the Royal Oak area to the Bagenalstown Sewerage Treatment Plant over recent months. The completed design proposals have now been handed over to the Irish Water Asset Delivery Team for delivery. This will include final detailed design, planning permission, tender contracts, and delivery.

While we do not have a current date for construction for this project it is on the priority list for delivery and we anticipate that the project will be delivered in the short term subject to the necessary approvals and funding."

Cllr M Doran welcomed the update and the members hoped that this matter will progress soon.

#### **5. Roads Service Plan Report**

##### Roads Service Plan Report

Mr J Crowley went through the roads report in detail.

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

- An update to confirm if any monies was received through the IPB fund was allocated and spent to which Mr J Crowley confirmed footpath works were prioritised over a 2 year work programme.
- An update regarding the Royal Oak Junction to which Mr J Crowley informed the members that he had submitted an application to apply for funding for a study to be carried out.
- A request to assess footpaths in the town of Bagenalstown
- A request to check the road markings at the school in Bagenalstown
- A request to assess the safety of the road at Slyguff Bridge due to increase in number of crashes at this location.
- A suggestion to put up a sign at bridge south of Glynn as lorries cannot turn around.

The members thanked Mr Crowley for the continued commitment of the roads team.

#### **6. Winter Maintenance Plan 2022-2023**

Mr J Crowley referred to the circulated comprehensive Winter Maintenance Plan prepared by Mr R Wickham, S/Engineer. The members asked for salt drops at local areas if required.

#### **7. Housing Report**

The members welcomed the circulated housing report, and Mr P O'Gorman extended his apologies on behalf of Mr B O'Donovan. Cllr McDonald asked if there was statistics

available regarding the on-line survey for affordable housing and encouraged all councillors to promote the survey.

#### **8. Building Acquisitions Measure 2022**

Mr K Comerford informed the members that the Council had sale agreed on the Convent in Bagenalstown and informed the members it will go out to tender for a design team in November. Cllr A McDonald, with the support of the members agreed that this was a very positive purchase with plenty of scope for a Community & Enterprise hub for the south of the county, allowing for community spaces and training rooms with plenty of parking and great scope with the existing large rooms in the building.

Mr K Comerford reminded the members that the progress of this measure will be subject to national funding, adding that it will be April 2023 before any drawings will be available. The members thanked Mr P O’Gorman and Mr K Comerford for the forward thinking in regard to this purchase adding that it was a gamechanger for the south of the county which will in turn give great opportunities for small businesses to grow. Mr K Comerford replied to a question regarding the management of the centre by saying the plan was to run it in a similar manner to Carlow’s Enterprise House by restructuring the Carlow Community Enterprise Board with a proposed name as ‘Presentation House’ keeping in line with Enterprise House.

Mr P O’Gorman reiterated the great progress that was taking place in Muinebheag MD, having listened to the voices of the members and taking their ambitions on board.

#### **9. Casual Trading Byelaws Muinebheag**

Mr K Comerford informed the members that the casual trading byelaws were in regard to public property only and are now ready to go on public display for one month, for all municipal districts. These byelaws would introduce a licencing arrangement for individual or multiple days per week with fees ranging from €500 to €1,250 for all types of casual trading. Mr K Comerford confirmed that there will be a methodology to enforce the byelaws, noting that they are for rural locations and not looking at town centres, as a different model would be required for same.

**Resolved** On the proposal of Cllr Quinn, seconded by Cllr Gladney, followed by a show of hands all members agreed that the casual trading byelaws be put on public display.

Mr K Comerford agreed to update the members again in February regarding progress.

#### **10. St Mullin’s Tourism & Heritage Plan**

Mr K Comerford referred to the circulated document, noting that it was reviewed by the strategic policy committee and asked the members to contact him if there were any amendments to note. The members expressed concern about the traffic being a challenge for the area, and supported the introduction and guidance that updated signage would offer to reorientate people and enhance their visitor experience.

**Resolved** On the proposal of Cllr Quinn, seconded by Cllr Doran, following a show of hands that the St Mullin’s Tourism & Heritage Plan, as presented proceed and follow up on the funding streams available to progress.

**11. Potential land for community playground in Fenagh**

Mr P O’Gorman outlined, on behalf of Mr M Brennan, Director of Community Department that there is a live planning permission in Fenagh, that may allow potential for a playground but cannot be discussed further at this time.

**12. Feasibility Study on former disused railway line as a Greenway**

Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that the final draft of the feasibility study on former disused railway line as a Greenway was received this week and will be presented to management team and circulated to the members then. The members expressed some disappointment that they were not aware that community groups were contacted but agreed to await to see what is in the report.

**13. Ballymoon Castle Update**

Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that the owner appears to be agreeable to the leasing of the land and the item is listed for the next Office of Public Works Board meeting, adding that an update will be available at the next meeting.

**14. Votes of Sympathy**

The members expressed their deepest sympathy to the following families on their behalf:

- **Lorraine Doyle**, Seskin Road, Leighlinbridge, County Carlow.
- **Betty Coleman**, (née McDonnell, Elizabeth), Closhutton, Bagenalstown, Carlow / Spink, Abbeyleix, County Laois.
- **Anna (Annie) Kane**, (née Lillis), Lorum, Ballinkillen, Bagenalstown, Carlow.
- **Thomas Doyle**, Carlow Road, Leighlinbridge, Carlow
- **Gerard Jnr Murnane**, Portlaoise Road, Graiguecullen, Carlow – nephew of Jennifer Murnane O’Connor, TD.

**15. Correspondence**

No correspondence to note.

**16. Any Other Business**

The members asked that a representative from the planning department be invited to the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7 December 2022

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings Administrator**