

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Tullow
Held in Teach Bhríde, Tullow, Co. Carlow, on Wednesday 19th April, 2023
At 4.00 pm

Present: Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Chairperson
Cllr. John Murphy
Cllr. John Pender
Cllr. John McDonald
Cllr. William Paton
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue (Remote)

In Attendance: Michael Brennan, Director of Services
Brian O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer
Pat Harrington, Senior Executive Officer
Nicola Lawlor, Senior Executive Officer
Brigid Deenihan, Senior Staff Officer
Seamus Doran, Senior Enterprise Development Officer

The Chairperson welcomed everybody to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of Tullow held on Wednesday, 15th March, 2023.

The Minutes were taken as read and as there were no matters arising, the minutes were:

Proposed by: Cllr. John Murphy
Seconded by: Cllr. Will Patton

2. Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolution of the Municipal District Members

2.1 Casual Trading Bye-Laws

Seamus Doran clarified some queries relating to the Casual Trading Bye-Laws which were raised by the members.

Proposed: Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue
Seconded: Cllr. Will Patton

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

3.1 Area Engineer's Report

Pat Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer, gave the members a very comprehensive update on progress of works to date in the area. Cllr. John

Pender raised a concern about safety due to the volume of traffic in the Grange area at school times and requested if the Area Engineer could examine the area and make any improvements to increase safety in the area at these times.

The members complimented Pat on works completed to date.

3.2 Housing Progress Report

Brian O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, briefed the members on progress to date in the Tullow Municipal District. He advised the members of the dramatic increase in housing applications in the first quarter of this year, this is mainly due to the increased income threshold which allows more people to be eligible to apply for social housing. He also emphasised the importance of the applicants fully completing the application forms and reading the checklist before submitting to ensure their housing application is valid.

Brian also advised the members that there was a change of staff particularly in the area of Grants. He mentioned the upcoming retirement of Collette Nolan, Clerical Officer, after forty-one years service. The members joined with Brian in acknowledging the outstanding work undertaken by Colette in the Planning Office and more recently in the Grants Section of Housing,

An update on the Tenant In-situ Scheme was given to members, with Brian advising that nineteen houses have currently gone 'sale agreed', with the Department having approved a further nine above the initial approval of ten.

Cllr. Will Patton requested that RESPOND be asked to secure the site beside Hillbrook Estate to eliminate the problem of anti-social behaviour. Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue agreed, while Brian O'Donovan made it very clear that the Fire Service will not be covering the cost of any future fires that may occur on this site.

3.3 Planning Report

Nicola Lawler, Senior Executive Officer gave a very detailed update on matters in the Planning Section. She acknowledged that the members had not been receiving planning decisions made by An Bord Pleanala but advised that this has been rectified and they will receive all future decisions.

Brigid Deenihan, Senior Staff Officer, reported on Residential Zone Land Tax and also advised the members of the expected changes in the Croi Conaithe Scheme.

3.4 Town Centre First Report

Nicola Lawler, Senior Executive Officer gave a progress report and outlined the timelines for the Town Centre First Report. While the members voiced their disappointment at the lack of engagement and poor attendance at public meetings in relation to the Town Centre First Plan, Nicola was keen to acknowledge the few who did engage and pointed out that their contributions

would be very valuable in securing funding and planning future development for the town.

In order to facilitate a longer public consultation period, a discussion took place regarding changing the date of the July meeting of Tullow Municipal District.

The July meeting will be held on 26th July, 2023.

Proposed by: Cllr. Will Patton

Seconded by: Cllr. John McDonald

The derelict properties in the town was discussed and it was acknowledged that the town is looking well and dereliction is decreasing.

4. Notices of Motion

- 4.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. B. O'Donoghue. 'That Tullow Municipal District Begin the process of naming the 'inner relief road' as the 'Fr. Murphy Memorial Road' by way of marking 225 years of the 1798 rebellion and also in the interest of proper road naming and function'.

Proposed: Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue

Seconded: Cllr. John McDonald

Cllr. Will Patton requested that this Notice of Motion be withdrawn as Fr. Murphy Terrace already exists in Tullow. A vote was taken and the motion was carried:

For: Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue

Cllr. John Murphy

Cllr. Charlie Murphy

Cllr. John McDonald

Against: Cllr. Will Patton

Absent: Cllr. John Pender

5. Correspondence:

A request was received from Aidan Collins requesting permission to attend the May Tullow Municipal District Meeting to make a presentation to the Members on a proposed solar farm within the electoral area and give details on a supporting community consultation event to be held in early June. The members agreed.

6. Any Other Business:

Cllr. Will Patton raised the issue of accommodation in the Courthouse for the scouts. Michael Brennan clarified that the scouts had been asked to leave the Courthouse at short notice because of Health and Safety issues and he clarified that the building would not be available to them in the future.

A query was raised about providing life buoys in Thomas Traynor Park. Michael Brennan advised that a Water Safety Officer will be appointed soon and this issue would be resolved.

This concluded the business of the meeting.