

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

**held on Wednesday 4 April 2024 at 4.00 pm**

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

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

**In attendance:** Mr Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure  
Mr Brian O’Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing  
Mr Jerry Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag MD  
Ms Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer  
Mr Ray Wickham, A/Senior Engineer, Roads  
Mr Michael Brennan, Director of Services, Housing & Community  
Mr Seamus Loughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads  
Ms Claire Cahill, Local Coordinator Carlow, Healthy Age Friendly Homes

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**1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 2 February 2024**

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr W Quinn seconded by Cllr A McDonald, following a show of hands that the minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting held on 2 February 2024 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

**All agreed**

**2. Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

**Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District.**

**3. Community Department – Approval of Environmental Grants 2024**

Mr M Brennan referred to circulated proposed allocations in respect of Environmental and Tidy Towns Grants for 2024, €10,000 and €11,000 respectively, totalling €21,000 for the members to consider.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr A McDonald, seconded by Cllr W Quinn, following a show of hands that the Environmental and Tidy Towns Grants as circulated be agreed.

**All agreed**

#### **4. Roads Department – Queen of the Universe SRTS – Part VIII Proposal**

Mr S Loughlin updated the members regarding the Queen of the Universe Safe Routes to School Scheme (SRTS), with a proposal to proceed to Part VIII. Mr S Loughlin agreed to report back to the members and keep them informed of progress.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr A Gladney seconded by Cllr M Doran following a show of hands to proceed with the Part VIII proposal regarding the Queen of the Universe SRTS scheme.

**All agreed.**

### **Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

#### **5. Housing Department**

##### **a. Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme**

Ms C Cahill on behalf of Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme outlined that the programme is a collaboration between the Department of Health and Department of Housing and Local Government with the service designed to enable older people to remain living in their own home for longer, with free and confidential services available to anyone aged 65+ years.

Mr B O'Donovan informed the members that policies will be changed and updated to reflect the new guidance and Ms C Cahill will be available to provide people with the best advice or link them to the right service.

Cllr T Kinsella, on behalf of the members thanked Ms C Cahill for the presentation.

#### **6. Environment Department**

##### **a. Bagenalstown Cemetery Update**

Mr P O'Gorman circulated a report on behalf of Ms O Barrett regarding Bagenalstown Cemetery Capacity and Expansion Update, which outlined that there is no immediate pressure on capacity and that the matter of future capacity is being dealt with as a priority by the Environment Department.

Mr P O'Gorman advised the members that expressions of interest were sought adding his commitment to providing additional grounds in Bagenalstown, and a report with more detail should follow in Q3 2024.

#### **7. Roads Department**

##### **a. Update on the Gore's Bridge pedestrian Improvement Scheme**

Mr S Loughlin gave an update on the Gore's Bridge pedestrian improvement scheme noting that a total of 30+ submissions were received, 8 from Carlow, with a report underway. The options when complete are to;

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1. Proceed
2. Proceed with amendments
3. Not proceed

The members noted concerns regarding parking and asked that a solution be followed up on in this regard.

### **b. Muinebheag Public Realm Project Update**

Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that the Part VIII plans were approved with the tender going out next week and details regarding the design to follow with the plan to commence works by end June 2024

### **c. Muinebheag Relief Road**

Mr R Wickham, A/Senior Engineer advised the members that there are several projects underway in Carlow following the appointment of a project engineer for the Carlow Relief Road. Following a meeting with the Department Carlow have now been invited to prepare a Draft proposal regarding a Muinebheag Relief Road.

Mr P O’Gorman noted the importance to show the need and requirement for the road and informed the members that the Chief Executive has confirmed resources will be provided to advance this project.

The members welcomed this news.

### **d. Roads MD Report**

The members noted the Roads report as circulated by Mr J Crowley and expressed their gratitude to the Chief Executive for the funding given to the members to progress some small local projects in the County. The members added that this funding has given a great lift to communities.

## **8. Correspondence**

Nothing to note.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- a. Ms M Ahearne informed the members that letters will issue next week to the nominees for the Cathaoirleach Awards that will be held in McGrath Hall on Wednesday 1 May at 7.00pm sharp.
- b. Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that €30k funding for Town Centre First was approved and that Ms N Lawlor, Town Regeneration Officer, Planning/Housing Department will keep the members updated regarding same.
- c. The members noted the news that Mr J Crowley will be retiring during the summer months and expressed their sincere gratitude to him for all the work he has done for the Municipal District. Mr J Crowley appreciated the kind comments adding that we all work together despite political differences.

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- d. Mr P O’Gorman wished all the members the best of luck in the upcoming local elections to take place on June 7.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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

**Cathaoirleach**

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

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

**Meetings Administrator**