

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

**held on Wednesday 6 December 2023 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 Kieran Cullinane, Senior Engineer, Transportation.  
Mr Paul Byrne, Executive Engineer, Special Capital Projects  
Ms Angela Whelan, Executive Technician, Transportation

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**1. Confirmation of Draft Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Budgetary Plan 2024 Meeting 25 October 2023**

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr W Quinn seconded by Cllr M Doran, following a show of hands that the minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Budgetary Plan 2024 Meeting held on 25 October 2023 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

**All agreed**

**2. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 25 October 2023**

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr A Gladney seconded by Cllr W Quinn, following a show of hands that the minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting held on 25 October 2023 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

**All agreed**

**3. Matters Arising**

Cllr T Kinsella asked for an update regarding the safe routes to school project. Mr P O’Gorman advised that the Section 38 was approved, and the report being finalised with the provision of additional parking at McGrath Hall to address some of the concerns raised. The members asked if the report showing details of the public consultation could be circulated to which Mr O’Gorman replied this would be circulated by the Active Travel Team to the members as soon as it was available.

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

**4. Bagenalstown Public Realm**

Mr P O’Gorman welcomed Mr P Byrne and Ms A Whelan to the meeting from special projects and presented the drawings for the public realm in Market Square. He referenced the fact that the gradients to the proposed new ramp linking Market Square to Bachelor’s walk did not meet the guidelines and as such would be omitted. Mr K Cullinane advised that the intention, subject to members approval, is to proceed to Part VIII. The timeline of the works will be done in coordination with Uisce Éireann planned works in the area. The members enquired if parking spaces would be removed to which Mr K Cullinane advised that the priority for this €500k town centre enhancement scheme is to improve the public realm, slow traffic through the area, improve pedestrian connectivity to the church and introduce soft landscaping. It will include the loss of some parking spaces but that the parking survey undertaken showed there was ample on street surplus parking available within a short distance. The members asked if the provision of additional carpark spaces could be provided for at the Jordan’s field site and welcomed the installation of pedestrian crossings, asking if public lighting can be incorporated into the scheme and looked forward to it brightening up the town centre.

Mr K Cullinane advised that Ms N Lawler will have more information regarding the rural regeneration and development fund under the local area plan in the coming months and would keep the members briefed in this regard.

Ms A Whelan thanked the members for the opportunity to present the plan.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr A Gladney seconded by Cllr A McDonald, followed by a show of hands, that the Bagenalstown Public Realm as presented proceed to Part 8.

**All agreed.**

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr A Gladney seconded by Cllr W Quinn, followed by a show of hands, that the proposal to establish if additional parking spaces can be attained at Jordan’s Field be followed up on.

**All agreed.**

Mr P O’Gorman confirmed that the Part 8 will be advertised next week for a period of 6 weeks.

**Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

**5. Bagenalstown Cemetery Update**

Mr P O’Gorman updated the members with details submitted in report by Ms O Barrett Senior Engineer and Mr T Madden Senior Executive Engineer, Environment department going through the background and proposal to address the acquisition of additional lands for the expansion of the cemetery. It was noted that whilst there is no legislative mandate for the local authority in the provision of cemeteries that the environment department have taken preliminary discussions with the adjacent

landowner and are giving consideration to the installation of a columbarium wall in the district. As no agreement is forthcoming at this time Carlow County Council now intends to initiate an “Expression of Interest” process for the sale of land within the Bagenalstown area to facilitate the development of a new cemetery. An advertisement for expressions of interest will be disseminated through the local Nationalist newspaper and Carlow County Council’s online platforms, adding that this approach is designed to encourage local residents to come forward with suitable land for sale in Bagenalstown to Carlow County Council, offering an avenue to explore new possibilities in light of the complexities associated with expanding the current cemetery.

The members expressed disappointment that an agreement could not be negotiated with the adjacent landowner and noted the content of the report. All members agreed to the next step ‘to initiate an “Expression of Interest” process for the sale within the Bagenalstown area to facilitate the development of a new cemetery.

## **6. Housing MD Report**

Mr B O’Donovan circulated the housing report, adding that this was a very positive year for Muinebheag MD in the delivery of units, and addressed any questions raised by the members including:

- Confirmation that energy retrofits are ongoing for council units.
- A request for information on the alternative heating systems to which Mr B O’Donovan replied more information will be on the website when launched in the new year.

## **7. Roads MD Report**

Mr J Crowley circulated the roads report, addressing any questions raised by the members including:

- That the public lighting at Paulstown junction to be re-instated.
- That the slip road from Donore to Ballycormick to be upgraded.
- That road markings at the Royal Oak be reinstated.
- That road markings at Leighlin Road be reinstated.
- A request for the pothole repair unit to carry out repairs in the district.
- A request to review parking on pedestrian crossing at McCullagh service station.
- That the pedestrian crossing at Rathana Road in Borris has a pole with no light.
- To investigate a safer manner for entry/exit of cars at Ballytiglea Bridge.
- To instal carpark or a one-way system in Ballyellen as cars are parking on footpath.
- To investigate the lowering of the old railway bridge on the Bagenalstown Road, R 705, at Ballyfenean, to make it safer.

Cllr A Gladney welcomed the walking path on the Leighlin Road from the ORIS funding.

**Notices of Motion**

**8. Standing in the name of Cllr A Gladney**

“That funding should be sought for a trial of pedestrian improvements at Kilree Railway bridge, Muinebheag to determine the viability of a new footpath on the bridge, the reduction of the existing two lanes of traffic to one lane and the introduction of a traffic light-controlled shuttle system”

The motion was proposed by Cllr A Gladney, seconded by Cllr W Quinn.

Cllr A Gladney asked for the support of the members to consider a trial to make this bridge a safer place for pedestrians.

Mr P O’Gorman advised that if the motion was carried a trial for one month would be considered.

The members discussed the motion, a roll call vote was taken to establish if the motion would be carried.

<b>Member of Muinebheag MD</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Cllr Michael Doran		√		
Cllr Andy Gladney	√			
Cllr Tommy Kinsella			√	
Cllr Arthur McDonald		√		
Cllr Willie Quinn	√			
Cathaoirleach (Cllr Tommy Kinsella), if required as casting vote		√		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>		

The vote resulted in 2 members voting for, 2 members voting against, with 1 member abstaining. This resulted in an equal vote and the Cathaoirleach was asked to cast vote for decision. The Cathaoirleach voted against the motion. Accordingly, the motion was not carried.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Cllr A Gladney seconded by Cllr W Quinn, following a roll call vote that the motion was not carried with the overall vote of 2 for and 3 against following the casting vote by the Cathaoirleach.

**9. Standing in the name of Cllr A McDonald**

“That the installation of a road crossing at Doyle’s Railway House, Muinebheag be considered”

The motion was proposed by Cllr A McDonald, seconded by Cllr M Doran.

Cllr A McDonald asked for the support of the members to consider a road crossing as the current layout is not safe with motorists unsure of who has the right of way with the current layout.

## Municipal District of Muinebheag

Mr P O’Gorman and Mr J Crowley noted that whilst budgets were trimmed back considerably that the motion can be explored if supported by the members.

The members discussed the motion, a roll call vote was taken to establish if the motion would be carried.

<b>Member of Muinebheag MD</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Cllr Michael Doran	√			
Cllr Andy Gladney	√			
Cllr Tommy Kinsella	√			
Cllr Arthur McDonald	√			
Cllr Willie Quinn	√			
Cathaoirleach (Cllr Tommy Kinsella), if required as casting vote	N/A			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			

The vote resulted in 5 members voting for. Accordingly, the motion was carried.

### **10. Correspondence**

Nothing to note.

### **11. Any Other Business**

Nothing to note.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7 February 2024.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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

**Cathaoirleach**

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

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

**Meetings Administrator**