

Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting

held on Wednesday 2 February 2024 at 4.00 pm

in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag

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

Virtually present: Cllr Arthur McDonald

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 Cian Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Ms Laura Kelly, Community Development Officer, Community
Ms Margaret Moore, A/Senior Executive Officer, Community
Ms Linda Culleton, Economic Development Officer, LEO
Ms Brigid Deenihan, Vacant Homes Officer, Housing/Planning
Ms Nicola Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer, Housing/Planning

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 6 December 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 Monthly Meeting held on 6 December 2023 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. 2024 Draft Service Delivery Plan

a. Community Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024

Ms M Moore welcomed Ms L Kelly, Community Development Officer to the meeting, working to support community groups and addressed any questions raised by the members on the Community Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024 as presented with an overall total of €75,000 and an additional contribution of €25,000 to Swimming Pool, Muinebheag.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr M Doran, seconded by Cllr W Quinn, following a show of hands that the Community Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024 be agreed as presented.

All agreed

b. Economic Development Service Service Delivery Plan 2024

Ms L Culleton Economic Development Officer, Local Enterprise Office presented the Economic Development Annual Service Plan 2024 outlining the details for Fund 1 Christmas Programme, €22,000 and Fund 2 Streetscape Enhancement Scheme €15,000, and addressed any questions raised by the members

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr W Quinn, seconded by Cllr A Gladney, following a show of hands that the Economic Development Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024 be agreed as presented.

All agreed

c. Draft Roadworks Programme 2024

Mr J Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer presented the Roads Annual Service Plan 2024, prepared with a similar allocation to 2023 as the exact allocation amounts for 2024 were not confirmed yet totalling €1,936,625, €262,890 & €206,539 for Non National Restoration Improvement, Non-National Restoration Maintenance & Non-National Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Works, and address any questions raised by the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr M Doran, seconded by Cllr W Quinn, following a show of hands that the Draft Roads Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024, subject to change on confirmation of Department allocation for 2024 be agreed as presented.

All agreed

4. Part VIII Application – New Equipment & Storage Buildings at Powerstown

Mr R Wickham, A/Senior Engineer outlined the details for the Part VIII application, asking for the members approval to commence the process to set up a new equipment and storage building at Powerstown, Co Carlow circulating maps and drawings showing the proposed plan, and addressed any questions raised by the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr A McDonald seconded by Cllr A Gladney following a show of hands consent to commence the process for application regarding new equipment and storage buildings at Powerstown.

All agreed.

Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

5. Regeneration Update

Ms N Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer updated the members with details of the Regeneration Team introducing Brigid Deenihan as Vacant Homes Officer, Pat

Hughes Executive Technician and Tommie Hickson Staff Officer with the work programme consisting of the following;

- Formulation of Town Plans
- Tackling Vacancy & Dereliction
- Carrying out surveys of our towns and streets
- Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Activation Programme
- Croí Cónaithe – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG)
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Projects
- Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) Applications and Projects
- Town & Village Renewal (TVR) Applications and Projects

Ms B Deenihan outlined the statistics following an initial survey completed on 136 vacant and derelict properties in Bagenalstown, Borris and other villages within the MD area informing the members that the Regeneration Team in collaboration with some of our colleagues in the Housing Department will be holding Public Information Sessions to inform the public of the various funding streams that are now available, asking if of the Members or members of the public are aware of vacant or derelict properties they can be brought to our attention by emailing the details to vacanthomes@carlowcoco.ie

Ms N Lawler referred to the announcement today from Minister Heather Humphries regarding funding to develop the next phase of Town Centre First Plans. The amount of funding is up to €30k for Town Centre First Plans and advised that a Town Team will be set up which will be taken via public consultation and nominations. The Town Team are the drivers of the Town Centre First Plans and are vital to an effective delivery.

The members spoke in favour of the grants outlined and welcomed the news regarding the upcoming information sessions.

6. Expressions of Interest Bagenalstown Cemetery

Mr P O’Gorman circulated a copy of the advertisement for expressions of interest for lands suitable for Non-Denominational graveyard in Bagenalstown for submission by Thursday 29th February with an update to issue at the next meeting.

7. Housing MD Report

Mr B O’Donovan circulated the housing report, and addressed any questions raised by the members including:

- Development of some upper floor buildings with ground floor remaining as a Commercial unit,
- Transfer policy for Carlow County Council,
- Tenant purchase of a Council house,
- Elderly and Disability Housing Schemes,
- Affordable Housing Schemes,
- Communication Policy for the Housing Department

8. Proposed Uisce Éireann Water Upgrade works in Bagenalstown Update

Mr J Crowley informed the members that Uisce Éireann (UÉ) works are due to commence in 6 to 8 weeks. The members confirmed that UÉ outlined details for the planned works by holding workshops and asked that the Engineer and Director walk the town after completion of the works to ensure all reinstatement works are completed to a high standard.

9. Town Improvement Works Muinebheag 2024

Mr J Crowley circulated the breakdown of the proposed works for Leighlinbridge & Borris as part of the Town Improvement Works to the value of €50,000 and works in Bagenalstown at €177,000.

On the proposal of Cllr A Gladney seconded by Cllr M Doran the members welcomed the fund and spoke in favour of these works.

10. Safety Works Programme 2024

On the proposal of Cllr A Gladney seconded by Cllr A McDonald, the members noted the safety works programme 2024 as outlined by Mr J Crowley.

11. Roads MD Report

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

- Details of the upcoming St Patrick's Day parades
- A request from Bus Éireann requesting details of routes to inform the public of changes.

12. Cathaoirleach Awards 2024

Ms M Ahearne asked that nominations for the Cathaoirleach Awards be submitted. The members agreed that the Awards be held on Wednesday May 1 in McGrath Hall.

13. Correspondence

a. Bagenalstown Public Realm Newspaper Notice

Mr P O'Gorman referred to circulated copy of advertisement regarding Part 8 at Market Square to Bachelors Walk, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow with submissions closing on 6 February 2024 for discussion at upcoming full council meeting.

b. New Local Area Plan (LAP) Muinebheag – Royal Oak

Mr P O'Gorman referred to circulated memo from the Senior Executive Planner, Planning Department confirming that an 'Issues Paper' has issued and that Carroll Melia Senior Executive Planner and Anita Sweeney Senior Planner are to be contacted if the members have any questions in relation to the process.

14. Any Other Business

a. Section 38 Goresbridge

Mr P O'Gorman updated the members in relation to Active Travel works at Goresbridge.

Municipal District of Muinebheag

The members understood that the matters concerning lack of parking were not part of these works and asked if this matter could be followed up on.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4 April 2024.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator