

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting
held on Wednesday 10 July 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 Daniel Pender

In attendance

Virtually: 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
Mr Kieran Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Ms Maria Ahearne, Meeting Administrator, S/Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Draft Minutes for Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting 4 April 2024

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr A Gladney seconded by Cllr M Doran, following a show of hands that the draft minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting held on 4 April 2024 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

All agreed

2. Confirmation of Draft Minutes for Municipal District of Muinebheag Annual General Meeting 27 June 2024

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr W Quinn seconded by Cllr D Pender, following a show of hands that the draft minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Annual General Meeting held on 27 June 2024 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

All agreed

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

4. Presentation House Part VIII

Mr K Comerford wished the newly elected council well for their term and briefed the members on the details of the new design for the proposed development of the former Presentation Convent, for use as a Community & Enterprise Centre which was purchased under the Town & Village Building Acquisition Fund. The development of the project is under the Town Centre First Office in partnership with the Economic Development Unit of Carlow County Council. The public consultation

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for the Part VIII process is complete and a full report will be presented to the September Council Meeting. Mr K Comerford advised that the property will contain meeting rooms, office suites, community spaces and a new community hall is proposed in the former church for private and community use on a low cost basis to cover costs.

The building will be developed by Carlow County Council and operated under Licence/Lease by Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG (subject to approval of the members and funding). The development of the property will be subject to a successful funding application from the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund and Carlow County Council will present an application at the earliest opportunity for the funding of the development of this property. A business case on the financial model of the operation of the property has been developed in tandem with the planning process.

Mr K Comerford addressed all questions raised by the members.

The members thanked Mr Comerford for the update and spoke in support of this development and asked that it would be 'shovel ready' to commence when funding approval was secured.

5. Housing Department

Mr B O'Donovan congratulated all successful candidates in the local election and acknowledged the work of Cllr A McDonald on behalf of the housing department.

a. Housing MD Report

The members noted the report circulated and Mr B O'Donovan addressed any questions raised by the members, including:

- Clarification regarding detail for various grant schemes and request for increase to reflect increased adaptation costs.

Mr B O'Donovan advised that workshops will be rolled out in September with information on joint schemes.

b. Lands at Inchapooka Update

Cllr W Quinn asked for an update regarding lands at Inchapooka. Mr B O'Donovan advised that there was no update at this time and will keep Cllr Quinn informed of progress.

6. Planning Department

a. Muinebheag Town Centre First Plan

Mr P O'Gorman, on behalf of Ms N Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer, updated the members regarding confirmation of an allocation of €30,000 from the Department of Rural & Community Development to complete a Town Centre First Plan for Muinebheag. Following an Information Session in McGrath Hall, Muinebheag on 23rd April a Town Team is now to be established, with 7 members identified on the evening. One elected member is to be nominated to this committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr M Doran, seconded by Cllr W Quinn, followed by a show of hands, that Cllr A Gladney be nominated as member of the Town Team for Muinebheag Town Centre First Plan.
All agreed.

7. Roads Department

a. SRTS – Quinn of the Universe Update

Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that works on Station Road had gone to tender, noting that contractor should be appointed to commence in August, with Part VIII procedure underway at Queen of the Universe with works likely to commence early 2025.

Cllr A Gladney acknowledged the update for the 2 schemes, noting challenges regarding reduction in parking spaces, adding that the health and safety of the school children is most important. Cllr D Pender & Cllr M Doran enquired if residents parking bays could be considered. Mr J Crowley confirmed that byelaws would be required, adding that these would incur a cost to enforce same. The members acknowledged that members of the public did not wish to pay for parking and byelaws were not an option at this time.

b. Footpath to Ballytiglea Bridge Update

Cllr W Quinn asked for an update regarding footpath to Ballytiglea Bridge to which Mr J Crowley replied there was no commencement date at this time.

c. Muinebheag Public Realm Project Update

Mr P O’Gorman informed the members that works were out to tender for the Muinebheag public realm project and following the appointment of a contractor they will take approximately six months to complete.

d. Roads MD Report

Mr J Crowley referred to the circulated roads report and addressed any questions raised by the members including:

- Acknowledging funding for Borris playground,
- Reinstatement of surface in Leighlin following UÉ works,
- Update on progress for Ballyellen carpark, with Mr P O’Gorman advising that he is hopeful this would be in place by summer 2025,
- To consider one way street at Pound Lane,
- Road markings to be updated at Kavanagh’s Cross Corner,
- Removal/relocation of chippings at Borris Cemetery,

The members noted that this was the last meeting for Mr J Crowley as he was retiring later in the month and thanked him for the update and all the works he had carried out in the Municipal District. Cllr M Doran acknowledged the work of Mr Crowley, noting that he always found him to be professional with a great knowledge for the area. Cllr T Kinsella noted that he had a lovely way of saying ‘no’ with Cllr A Gladney adding that Mr Crowley was a hard worker. Cllr W Quinn agreed with the sentiments adding that the conversation always started with an update on a club

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match over the weekend. Cllr D Pender recalled dealing with Mr Crowley when working with Deputy J Murnane and finding him very co-operative and helpful.

Mr P O’Gorman thanked Mr Crowley on behalf of the executive, wishing him and his family the very best on his retirement.

Mr J Crowley noted that he had really enjoyed working the last six and a half years in the Muinebheag District as engineer and welcomed Cllr D Pender to the District on his first term and expressed his gratitude to Cllr A McDonald, former councillor for all the work they had done together over this time. Mr Crowley thanked the executive, Pádraig, whom he had previously worked with in Wexford County Council and Maria as meeting administrator, adding that he was lucky to be part of a good team.

8. Correspondence

Mr P O’Gorman referred to the circulated information from Uisce Éireann (UÉ), noting the addition of a Local Authority Water Services Newsletter as a welcome initiative to keep the members updated for the transition from water services to UÉ by 2026.

9. Any Other Business

- a. Cllr A Gladney asked if the traffic lights at Kilree Bridge can be revisited to which Mr P O’Gorman advised that a new application would need to be submitted for consideration.
- b. Cllr D Pender asked for an update on carparking at Milford to which Mr J Crowley replied he planned to tighten the junction and arrange road markings. Cllr M Doran asked that public lighting be considered for this area also.
- c. Cllr D Pender asked if tarmac or a footpath are part of planned works on the Carlow side of bridge at Tinnahinch to which Mr J Crowley replied that a joint approach was underway with Carlow and Kilkenny and he would request an update from the Kilkenny engineer.
- d. Cllr T Kinsella enquired about the Local Area Plan for Muinebheag with Mr P O’Gorman advising the members that consultants have been recruited and it will be a few months before an update will be available.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Meetings Administrator