
Minutes of the
Municipal District of Muinebheag
Meeting held on Wednesday, 16th July 2025 at 4.00 p.m.
in the Meeting Room, McGrath Hall, Muinebheag, Co. Carlow

Members Present: Cllr. Daniel Pender – *Cathaoirleach*
Cllr. Michael Doran – *Leas Cathaoirleach*
Cllr. Tommy Kinsella
Cllr. Willie Quinn
Cllr. Andy Gladney

In Attendance: Mr. Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure
Ms. Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer, Muinebheag MD
Michael Brennan, Director of Services
Anita Sweeney, Senior Planner, Planning
Wesley Keogh, Senior Executive Planner, Planning
Kieran Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Ben Woodhouse, A/Chief Fire Officer, Fire Services
Ger Griffin, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Fire Services
Tadhg Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Tommie Hickson, Meeting Administrator

Cllr. Daniel Pender, Cathaoirleach, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Confirmation of Draft Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag AGM
11th June 2025**

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr. W. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. T. Kinsella, following a show of hands that the draft minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag AGM held on the 11th June 2025 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

All agreed

**Confirmation of Draft Minutes of Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly
Meeting 11th June 2025**

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr. W. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. T. Kinsella, following a show of hands that the draft minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Monthly Meeting held on the 11th June 2025 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

All agreed

2. Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for Transaction at such meeting

None.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

3.1 Housing Report

Tadhg Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing, gave a brief update on the Housing Progress Report. The following areas were discussed:-

- Allocation of 37 houses in Ballyknockan
- Allocation list for Members
- Green Drake, Borris
- Bilboa
- ESB
- Green areas/footpaths

Tadhg answered all queries.

3.2 Bagenalstown Local Area Plan

Wesley Keogh, Senior Executive Planner gave a brief presentation with the assistance of Anita Sweeney, Senior Planner. Handouts were circulated and the following areas were clarified:-

- Significant increase from 300 projected units in 2017 to 500 units
- Recognition that National Government may have to zone new land
- Variation to Co. Development Plan is possible. We are currently waiting to hear from the department
- Planning department are working within the framework identifying appropriate land where services are available.
- If there is a desire to de-zone land, now is the time to request this
- Land to be zoned for industrial units
- Land beside school in Bagenalstown

All queries were answered. Anita Sweeney advised that the Planning department work within a framework which is a Statutory process. She confirmed that this plan would become effective when the Members adopt it. Submissions can be made up to the 28th July 2025.

3.3 Christmas Lights Funding & Christmas Programme 2025

Kieran Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office gave a presentation. The following areas were discussed:-

- Funding to erect and remove (*only*) Christmas lights
- Funding covers areas from the Local Area Plan
- Funding approval will go out first week of September
- Additional budget to be requested next year

An Amendment was Proposed by Cllr. T. Kinsella and Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn, to increase Priority 2 Towns & Villages to €2,000 and following a show of hands, All agreed.

3.4 Making Spaces for and with Teenagers

Michael Brennan, Director of Services gave a brief presentation and answered queries.

3.5 CLÁR Programme 2025

Michael Brennan, Director of Services circulated the funding programme to Members. He gave a brief presentation and answered all questions.

3.6 Muinebheag Fire Station – Proposed Upgrade

Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, welcomed Ben Woodhouse, A/Chief Fire Officer, Fire Services, and also, Ger Griffin, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Fire Services to the meeting.

Ben Woodhouse was delighted to confirm that approval in principle has now been received from the Department for the improvement works to Muinebheag Fire Station to a maximum all-in contribution of €1,392,000 (excluding V.A.T.). He gave a brief background to how this application was prepared and advised that the project will be managed by Ger Griffin, Assistant Chief Fire Officer. Ben then introduced Ger Griffin to the meeting and who has recently been appointed as Assistant Chief Fire Officer in Carlow.

Ger Griffin took the opportunity to give a brief synopsis of his career to date, which covers over 20 years with Kilkenny Fire Service and 5 years with the HSE. He acknowledged the highly qualified Fire Service staff and the professional service which is provided in County Carlow. He emphasised that this funding will provide a complete infrastructure which will allow Carlow Fire Service to grow and to continue providing this professional service into the future. It is anticipated that construction will take approximately 10 months, with delivery expected in Q1 2027.

Ben Woodhouse concluded the presentation by advising that there is an increase of 25% already in 2025 for the Fire Service in the County. He has now established a senior management team, and is very proud to progress this project to completion.

The members thanked Pádraig O’Gorman, Ben, Ger and all the team involved. This is great news for the town.

Pádraig O’Gorman also wished to thank Ben and Ger and their team of terrific staff who provide such an important service.

3.7 Muinebheag Cemetery

Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of services gave this update. He advised that Carlow Local Authority has committed a substantial investment from Capital funding for this project.

He confirmed that the AA Screening & Environmental Impact Assessment reports are due next Friday. Once these reports are approving of the project, the Part VIII process can commence in August, and will be open for public consultation for a period of 6 weeks. The Chief Executive’s Report on the project would currently be scheduled to be presented at the full County Council meeting for consideration in October. A further update will be presented at the next Municipal District meeting.

All queries were answered.

3.8 Twinning and Partnership

Cllr. Daniel Pender will give an update at a future meeting.

3.9 Roads Report

Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer gave a brief update confirming that all works were now substantially complete. The Public Realm works will commence mid-August.

The following issues were raised:-

- Local Improvement Scheme
- Community Improvement Scheme
- Drain cleaning
- Works Programme
- Road Signs
- Bus Stop sign
- Hedging at junctions
- Borris Fair

All queries were answered.

Pádraig O’Gorman advised that the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme will be ready to roll out end of this year, after the appointment of an engineer. This project will be managed by the Active Travel team.

4. Notices of Motion

None.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Any Other Business

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed:



Cllr. Daniel Pender
Cathaoirleach

Signed:



Tommie Hickson
Meetings Administrator

Date:



