

Minutes of the
Municipal District of Muinebheag Meeting
held on Wednesday, 3rd December 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 (remote)
Cllr. Andy Gladney

In Attendance: Mr. Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Services, Transport & Infrastructure
Ms. Lilly Siye, Senior Executive Engineer
Ben Woodhouse, A/Chief Fire Officer
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

1.1 To Approve Minutes of Muinebheag Municipal District of Muinebheag Draft Budgetary Plan (General Municipal Allocation) 2026 held on Wednesday, 22nd October at 3.30 p.m.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr. Andy Gladney and seconded by Cllr. Tommy Kinsella, following a show of hands that the draft minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Draft Budgetary Plan (General Municipal Allocation) 2026 held on the 22nd October 2025 be confirmed as accurate and taken as read.

All agreed

1.2 To Approve Minutes of Muinebheag Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd October 2025 at 4.00 p.m.

Resolved on the proposal of Cllr. Andy Gladney and seconded by Cllr. Michael Doran, following a show of hands that the draft minutes of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Draft Budgetary Plan (General Municipal Allocation) 2026 held on the 22nd October 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

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

3.1 Town Centre First Plan Update

Pádraig O’Gorman, Director of Service gave an update on this project. He confirmed that very successful workshops were held on the 2nd December and good feedback has been received from the consultants. Nicola Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer, has advised that the next step in the process will be a Public Consultation. The Town Centre First team will approve any proposals and it is expected that this will be complete by end of January 2026. Nicola requested to meet with the Members prior to signing off on any approval, and proposed Wednesday, 28th January 2026.

Pádraig O’Gorman then requested that the first Municipal District of Muinebheag meeting in 2026 is brought forward to Wednesday, 28th January 2026. This would be a full Municipal District meeting held at the normal time of 4.00 p.m.

Cllr. Michael Doran acknowledged that this was a very proactive campaign and he was delighted with the engagement received. However, he was disappointed with the support from the public.

Cllr. Andy Gladney agreed with Cllr. Doran and said that overall it was a very good meeting.

Pádraig O’Gorman highlighted several very good projects which give great scope for linkages and well planned green areas.

Cllr. Daniel Pender acknowledged that it was a poor turnout from the public. However, it was well advertised and this plan will create opportunities to apply for further funding applications in the future.

The proposal to bring the first Municipal District of Muinebheag meeting in 2026 forward to Wednesday, 28th January 2026 was agreed by all.

3.2 Housing Progress Report

Tadhg Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer, gave the Housing Progress Report as follows:-

- Ballyknockan, Leighlinbridge completed and allocated
- Bilboa complete and allocation complete before year end
- Ballymurphy at design proposal
- Borris housing allocation in January 2026

The following queries were raised:-

- Future projects/sites
- Waiting list
- 3 bed houses in Borris
- Town Centre sites with services
- Health Centre in Tinnahinch
- Ballyknockan Manor street lighting
- Ballyknockan snag list
- Housing grants

All queries were answered.

3.3 Muinebheag Fire Station Refurbishment Update

Ben Woodhouse, A/Chief Fire Officer gave this report. He acknowledged that the project has taken longer than he had hoped, but he is thrilled to have received approval from the Department dated 28/11/2025 in the amount of €2,788,244 for the refurbishment and extension of Bagenalstown Fire Station. A lot of work has gone into this application, and when additional works were identified, it was decided to apply for extra funding of €1,396,000 which has now been granted. This project will involve the refurbishment of the current site, avoiding dereliction, and is fantastic news for Bagenalstown. It will be aesthetically pleasing from the outside for the public to enjoy, but more importantly, it will bring Bagenalstown Fires Services into the future. Ben emphasised that this report was an update only, and will need to go through the full Part VIII process. The elected members will be notified in due course.

Ben also highlighted the arrival of two new vehicles which will be launched on the 4th December. The first is a HGV Combined Prime Mover and Hi-Ab, fuelled by hydro treated vegetable Oil (HVO). This will replace two old heavy diesel HGVs. The second vehicle is a 100% electric van. Both vehicles will contribute to Carlow County Council's Climate Action Plan by reducing our carbon emissions and improving local air quality.

The following queries were raised:-

- Part VIII
- Fire Engine callouts
- Rural areas
- Insurance
- Drones

All queries were answered.

The members thanked Ben and his team for the tremendous work being done and congratulated him for blazing a trail for others to follow. They acknowledged the valuable service that our Fire Service provides to the community, often under extremely difficult circumstances.

3.4 Bagenalstown Cemetery Expansion Proposal Update

Pádraig O’Gorman gave an update on the proposed expansion of Bagenalstown Cemetery. He advised that the Part VIII process was coming to a conclusion and will be included on the Agenda for consideration at next week’s meeting of Carlow County Council. When it is approved, it can then go to tender stage. Although this has been quite a complicated project, a lot of work has been completed in the background in preparation for works to begin early summer, approximately. He would like to take the opportunity to thank the landowner who has always been very patient throughout this process.

The following queries were raised:-

- Capacity of cemetery
- Columbarium wall
- Parking
- St. Mullins cemetery
- Tinnahinch cemetery
- Ballinkillen cemetery

All queries were answered.

3.5 MD Roads Report

Lilly Slye, Senior Executive Engineer gave the roads report update. She confirmed that the programme was now complete.

The following queries were raised:-

- Wall & carpark in Milford
- Milford Cross
- Gullies in housing estates
- Stop signs
- Local Improvement Schemes

All queries were answered.

4. Notices of Motion

4.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Daniel Pender

“That the Councillors of the Municipal District of Muinebheag call on Carlow County Council to develop and carry out plans to acquire a new carpark to serve the public in Bagenalstown”

Proposed by Councillor: D. Pender

Seconded by Councillor: M. Doran

And agreed following a show of hands

Pádraig O’Gorman confirmed that he would write to Irish Rail and enquire if it is possible for them to open more of their carpark to the public, or, extend the area that is already there.

4.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. Daniel Pender

“The Municipal District asks that the speed limit review be expedited to deal with dangerous sections of road raised previously by Council Members”

Proposed by Councillor: D. Pender

Seconded by Councillor: M. Doran

And agreed following a show of hands

Pádraig O’Gorman responded to the above motion. He advised that details had been received from the Roads Department confirming that the process has commenced, with several steps required, and a deadline of March 2027. This response will be circulated to the members.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Any Other Business

- Lease on lands at McGrath Hall to Bagenalstown Area Community Development Group/Bagenalstown Community Garden - Noted
- The possibility of ‘Twinning’ opportunities abroad was discussed. It was agreed to extend an invitation to Pont Pean to visit Carlow. Pádraig O’Gorman confirmed that he would contact Michael Brennan, Director of Service in relation to these discussions.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 28th January 2026

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed:  Date: 28/1/26
Cllr. Daniel Pender
Cathaoirleach

Signed:  Date: 28/01/26
Meetings Administrator