

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Tullow  
held in Teach Bhríde, Tullow, Co. Carlow, on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025  
at 5 pm.**

---

**Present:** Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue, Chairperson  
Cllr. John Pender  
Cllr. Jim Deane  
Cllr. William Paton  
Cllr. Charlie Murphy  
Cllr. Ben Ward

**In Attendance:** Michael Brennan, Director of Services  
Barry Knowles, Senior Executive Officer  
Pat Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer  
Nicola Lawler, Senior Executive Officer  
Brian O'Donovan, Senior Executive officer  
Hilda Minchin, Staff Officer

**Apologies:** None

The Chairperson welcomed everybody to the meeting.

**1. Confirmation of Draft Minutes**

**1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting of Tullow held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.**

The Minutes were taken as read and as there were no matters arising, the minutes were:

**Proposed by:** Cllr. William Paton  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Charlie Murphy

**AND RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted.

**2. Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolution of the Municipal District Members.**

None.

**3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

**3.1 Presentation from Irish Water re Watermain Renewal in Tullow**

Mr. Mark McCormack from Irish Water / Uisce Éireann gave a presentation to the Members on the Tullow Town Centre Watermain Replacement project which is due to commence on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and is scheduled for completion during September, 2025.

A discussion followed on the public consultation in advance of the commencement of the works, signage, road closures, stop/go systems and it was confirmed that works on other utilities works were not being carried out at the same time.

### **3.2 Area Engineer's Report**

Mr. Pat Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer reported that the signs for the new speed limits would be coming into effect from 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025. He informed the Members that the programme for 2025 had commenced and that it was expected that a list of projects for the year would be finalised with the Members in the near future.

The Members each took the opportunity to commend Mr. Harrington and the staff of the Municipal District of Tullow for the manner in which the recent severe weather event was handled. The Members wished to convey the deep appreciation of the public for the works carried out. It was noted for future such events, that salt and grit could be placed at strategic locations earlier in the event.

Mr. Harrington agreed that the response of staff had been well co-ordinated and executed and he would relay their comments to staff and contractors. He said that extra operations and changes in priority had been incorporated, despite the fact that such weather is not usual for Ireland. He informed the Members that works were now a week behind where they should be.

Mr. Harrington went on to advise the Members that Ms. Tina O'Toole from the office of the Municipal District of Tullow had worked with colleagues and members of the public to save the life of a member of the public who had collapsed on the road close to the Civic Offices. The Members commended all involved and wished the man well.

A query was raised regarding when a Residents Liaison Officer for a solar farm would be in place and Mr. Harrington advised that he would follow-up with the Planning Department, the contractor and the sub-contractor

Works at Rathoe and the number of HGV's in the area making it difficult for people to get onto the roads at schooltime for example. Concerns were raised that the number of HGV's on the road was resulting in the deterioration of the road at a rapid rate. It was suggested that an increase in the number of lay-bys for trucks could be considered. Mr. Harrington said that he would look into the matters above.

### **3.3 Housing Progress Report**

Mr. Brian O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer gave a progress report to the Members including updates on Traynor Avenue, Slaney House which is the property previously known as The Hogan Stand (Tullow), Rathvilly, Main Street (Hacketstown), Laragh Beg (Ballon) and Shillelagh Road (Tullow). He also advised that wastewater capacity remained an issue for development in Clonegal.

Mr. O'Donovan informed the Members that this would be his last meeting in his current role as he was moving to the role of Senior Executive Officer in the Planning Department and Mr. Tadhg Madden would be taking up the role of Senior Executive

Officer in the Housing Department. He also informed the Members that Ms. Michelle Griffin, Administrative Officer as also moving from Housing to Corporate Services. He stated that there had been significant progress in the last four years in Housing in County Carlow and thanked the Councillors for their support and help and noted their hard work on behalf of their constituents.

The Members thanked Mr. O'Donovan and Ms. Griffin for the guidance, dedication and empathy they brought to the Housing brief and wished them both every success in their new roles.

Mr Michael Brennan, Director of Services thanked Mr. O'Donovan, Ms Griffin and Ms. Lily Slye, Senior Executive Engineer (who recently transferred to the Municipal District of Muinebheag) for their work during his time both as Director of Services for Housing and as Tullow Town manager.

### **3.4 Update on Towns and Villages**

Ms. Nicola Lawler, Town Regeneration Officer, Town Centre First presented a report to the Members on Town and Village Renewal Projects in the Municipal District of Tullow. The Members complimented Ms. Lawler and her team on their work and a discussion followed on the proposed playground project in Ballon and pre-development consideration for Captain Murphy Memorial Hall. She advised Members to forward any possible projects early in the year so that the Department can be prepared in advance of the national call for projects which takes place twice a year. The Cathaoirleach and the Members thanks Ms. Lawler for her report.

### **3.5 2025 Community Annual Service Plan**

Mr. Barry Knowles, Senior Executive Officer, presented the Community Draft Annual Service Plan 2025 to the Members which included details of €86,000.00 of grant funding available to clubs, groups and organisations.

Following a discussion on the allocation of funds for the grant areas it was agreed that the allocation for the Building Community Leadership Support Scheme would be reduced by €500.00 to €14,000.00 and the St. Patrick's Day Parade allocation would be increased by €500.00 to €2,000.00 and be renamed Parades.

That the St. Patrick's Day Parade grant category be re-named to Parades.

**Proposed by:** Cllr. John Pender

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Ben Ward

**AND RESOLVED** that the St. Patrick's Day Parade grant category be re-named to Parades.

The above amendment and the grant amounts were approved as presented.

<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Recommended Funding in 2025</b>
Environmental	€11,000
Tidy Towns Grants	€11,000
Building Community Leadership Support Scheme	€14,000
Parades	€12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€38,000</b>
Discretionary Grants	€48,000
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>€86,000</b>

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. Ben Ward

**AND RESOLVED** that the grant amounts are approved as presented.

**4.0 Notices of Motion**

None

**5.0 Correspondence**

None

**6.0 Any Other Business**

Mr. Michael Brennan informed the Members that representatives from Active Travel were not present at the meeting as their 2025 budget had not been allocated to date.

Mr. Michael Brennan also informed the Members that the February 2025 meeting would take place in Teach Bhríde.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**