

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE PRESENTATION
CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY 21ST MARCH 2022 AT
3.00 P.M. (via Microsoft Teams also)**

Attendance: Councillors:

Cathal Byrne (Cathaoirleach)
Kathleen Codd-Nolan
John O'Rourke
Aidan Browne
Jackser Owens

Officials:

Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
Ms. Bernie Quigley, A/District Administrator
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. Michael Doyle, Executive Engineer, Housing
Ms. Majella Ryan, A/Staff Officer
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer EMD

**Hybrid Attendees via
Microsoft Teams**

Ms. Verona Murphy, TD.

Apologies:

Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Planning
Mr. Eoghan Greene – Ancient Connections Project

Congratulations:

- Cllr. Browne congratulated Enniscorthy CBS on securing a place in the U19 FAI schools Leinster Final. .
- Cllr. O'Rourke congratulated Patrick Kelly from Kilmyshall Boxing Club (40kg division) – who recently won an All Ireland.
- Cllr. Codd Nolan congratulated the U20's Irish Rugby team on their recent Grand Slam victory.

Votes of Sympathy:

- Cllr. Owens and Cllr. Codd Nolan offered a vote of sympathy to the Blackburn family in Moran Park, the Creane Family in Fr. Cullen Terrace and the Butler Family of Fr. Murphy Park.
- Cllr. O'Rourke offered a vote of sympathy to the O'Brien Family of Shannon Hill.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the January Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 21st February 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan, the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 21st February 2022 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

Cllr. O'Rourke sought an update on flooding issues at Bridgemeadows. Cllr. Byrne advised that a meeting had taken place last week with the residents where short term measures were discussed. It was noted that a longer term solution involved applying to the OPW for funding and it is hoped to have an update on this within a month.

Cllr. O'Rourke sought an update on the possibility of developing sites at St. Johns and St. Patricks Special School. Ms. Quigley A/District Administrator advised that a letter had been drafted to the HSE regarding St. Johns Campus and update will follow regarding St. Patricks Special School. Cllr. O'Rourke requested a copy of letter be issued to members.

Cllr. O'Rourke informed the attendees of his recent discussions with Community regarding Bunclody graveyard. He enquired for updates regarding the seat for Cllr. Tom Moorehouse. Ms. Quigley advised a letter had been issued to the family.

Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Planning

Cllr. Codd Nolan sought an update on the Planner interviews and was advised by Ms. Quigley and Ms. Godkin, that it was hoped that interviews would take place at the end of March with an estimated appointment in the region of twenty eight days. Cllr. Byrne acknowledged the long delay with Pre-Planning Meetings.

2.2 Housing & Presentation by Michael Doyle on Vacant Units

Mr. Michael Doyle Executive Engineer, Housing addressed the members regarding the current updates relating to Housing Maintenance. He thanked all the Housing Crews for their phenomenal work during the pandemic and followed it with a Presentation on Pre-Letting and Housing Maintenance.

The Members thanked Mr. Doyle mentioned the following issues were raised:

- Cllr. Owens mentioned the vacant bungalow at Borrmount. He spoke of public frustration at vacant properties, emergency accommodation and making homes more heat conservative.
- Cllr. Codd Nolan thanked the housing staff for their efforts and dedication and expressed her wish for Mr. Doyle to convey same to the team. She sought clarification on how staff are allocated across the county and discussed the issue of tenants not caring for their properties.
- Cllr. Browne thanked the housing staff and sought clarification on how decisions are made regarding proposed works on vacant houses.

Mr. Doyle addressed the members concerns.

- The bungalow at Borrmount is presenting currently with huge costs regarding sewage works which is proving too expensive for Housing Maintenance.
- He detailed the process regarding how vacant properties are inspected and progressed and how staffing crews are represented in Enniscorthy along with hopes for future appointments of staff.

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of houses being afforded inspections by Council Staff to ensure tenants were maintaining them properly.

Cllr. Byrne thanked the Housing Crew for their dedication and efforts. He then discussed the vulnerability of older tenants and the issue of new technology in the retrofitting works. He requested that Housing put in place a follow up system with tenants to ensure they were comfortable with the new technology in their homes. Mr. Doyle acknowledged this request and will consider same. Cllr. Codd Nolan at this point also acknowledged the same attention be given to tenants with vulnerabilities regarding their mental health and asked that they be considered in this process also.

Cllr. Codd Nolan requested an update regarding Ukrainian Refugees in Enniscorthy.

Cllr. O'Rourke discussed the issue of some poor quality works being completed by contractors on behalf of tenants in the district.

Cllr. Owens discussed payments to contractors/tenants under different grants offered by the council.

Ms. Godkin clarified the grant process for the members and how payments are administered. She requested that any evidence of repetitive complaints regarding contractors work be highlighted to her team. Regarding making available a list of preferred tenders of contractors for our tenants she advised that due to GDPR and the risk element involved it was no longer possible to facilitate this.

Ms. Godkin advised the members also as to how the Ukrainian Refugees were currently being dealt with in the county.

Cllr. Browne sought clarification regarding the number of units available in Clonhasten and allocation numbers for Castlelands in Ferns.

Ms. Redmond advised that she was not familiar with the situation in Clonhasten but would seek update on same. Regarding the houses in Castlelands, she advised that ordinarily they would be allocated once all become available, but clarity would be sought as to whether this would be in phases.

Cllr. Owens noted the development at the Forge and how it was progressing quite quickly.

2.2 Community

On the proposal of Cllr. Codd Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Owens it is intended to investigate the possibility of erecting a memorial in honour of those who have lost their lives to. or suffered during the pandemic, in a location like the Peace Park.

Cllr. Owens requested an update regarding the Skate Park.

Cllr. Codd Nolan requested an update on works for the 1798 memorial on the N80. Mr. Dempsey advised that traffic management would be an issue but perhaps it could be investigated as a joint project with community. Cllr. Byrne requested that the A/District Administrator investigate this matter.

Ms. Godkin advised that the Heritage Officer is reviewing monuments in the county to see how they can be maintained.

Cllr. Owens requested an update on the proposed memorial garden at the Promenade for those who have lost their lives. Ms. Quigley advised she would discuss with Mr. Ger Mackey in Community.

2.2 Environment

Cllr. Browne on behalf of Cllr. Murphy outlined concerns regarding illegal dumping at the Halting Site in Bunclody Cllr. Byrne concurred with these concerns.

Ms. Godkin advised that efforts are ongoing by Housing and Environment to address this issue.

Cllr. O'Rourke asked if a recent survey had been conducted regarding Air Quality in the town since the ban on smokey coal was introduced. Ms. Godkin advised that the Environment Department would be looking at any impacts from this change.

2.2 Libraries

Cllr. Byrne thanked the partnership of the HSE and the Libraries on the initiative of providing first books for children.

2.2 Fire Services

Contents of report were noted by Members.

2.2 Municipal District Report

Ms. Quigley presented her report to the Members. The following issues were raised.

Cllr. Owens asked for update on Summer Festivals and the Bridge on the Promenade. Ms. Quigley advised that the Summer Festival was proposed for the Bank Holiday weekend in August.

A brief discussion then took place regarding the bridge at the Promenade. Ms. Quigley advised that an update on the Technology Park is hoped for next meeting.

Cllr. Owens queried the development of the Soccer Pitch on the Ross Road and was advised by Ms. Godkin that no documents were received yet in respect of same.

Cllr. Codd Nolan spoke of the status of the proposed works at the Sports Hub and hoped for an update from the Department by the next meeting. She also requested that when preparing the Civic Reception, that Patrick Prendergast be included.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Codd Nolan the Members requested that a letter be issued to the Minister regarding the status of and expedition of the application for Sports Hub

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Browne, it is requested that representatives from Comhairle na nÓg be included on next months agenda.

3.0 Ancient Connections Project

Cllr. Byrne wished Mr. Eoghan Greene a speedy recovery and the presentation on the Ancient Connections Project is hoped to be scheduled again for the April Meeting.

4.0 Roads

Mr. Neil Dempsey presented his report for the Members. He briefly mentioned the move towards macadam works and huge cost increases having potential impact on future works.

The following questions were raised by the members.

Cllr. Owens raised the following issues:

- Situation regarding Cherryorchard and water washing into the B&B.
- Laneway at Shamrocks GAA/Soccer Club becoming in a state of disrepair.
- Possibility of upgrade works at Gimont, Salville, Rectory Hts, Clonhasten, Bree and Marshalstown.

Cllr O'Rourke raised the following issues:

- Update on Yield Right of Way signs at Carleysbridge similar to that in Ballycarney.
- Rest point on the By-Pass between Enniscorthy and Gorey for Hauliers not open.
- Lights at the Pedestrian Crossing at Summerhill Roundabout.
- Possibility of designated parking spaces for families with children on the autism spectrum.

Cllr. Codd Nolan raised the issue of the L2012 on the Restoration Improvement Program.

Mr. Dempsey addressed the Members concerns in full.

A discussion then took place with Cllr. Owens and Mr. Dempsey regarding the bridge at Carrigabruce and its stone inlet, followed by discussions on the ownership of the Right of Way at Salville.

Cllr. Byrne thanked Mr. Dempsey for the Works Programme. He raised the following issues:

- The crash barrier on the N30 on the first roundabout towards Clonroche.
- Possibility of looking at pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Slaney Street in light of the Flood Relief Scheme being delayed.
- Recent flooding at Kilgibbon.

Mr. Dempsey responded to all above queries raised.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Browne the proposed Roads Programme for Restoration and Maintenance was agreed by all.

5.0 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update

Mr. McHale addressed the members and discussed the decision to refuse the Flood Relief Scheme, expressing his disappointment and frustration. He further clarified the reasons for refusal. Cllr. Byrne, following the special meeting held on March 15th, noted again the intention to write to the Minister regarding this issue.

Cllr. Browne highlighted his concern for the Templeshannon improvement works in light of the decision to refuse the Flood Relief Scheme.

Cllr. Codd Nolan agreed with Cllr. Browne's statement and thanked Mr. McHale for his continued efforts in the scheme. She requested that a letter be issued to the Minister to confirm his commitment to funding and to obtain a time frame for works. She briefly discussed the importance of securing commitment in writing and the decision of the Minister.

Cllr. Owens expressed his disappointment and frustration at the Minister's decision, how it is impacting the people of Enniscorthy and what delays it is going to cause to other proposed works around the town.

A discussion took place on the merit of the reasons for refusal, following which Cllr. Browne asked that affirmation of his representation of the people of Enniscorthy be recorded in the minutes.

Cllr. Byrne agreed that a letter should be issued to Minister McGrath regarding the commitment to finance and addressing the people of Enniscorthy.

Mr. McHale then briefly discussed his frustration at how the decision was reached and noted that the case law involved related to Ecology Reports. A discussion then took place regarding the Ministers Decision.

The members agreed that every effort should be made now to move the scheme forward on behalf of the people of Enniscorthy.

On the proposal of Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke the members agreed to apply for extra funding through Neil Dempsey for any works for which he could secure funding for.

6.0 Water Services Report

Mr. O'Corcora outlined the content of his Water Services Report.

He highlighted issues pertaining to the opening hours for the Orchard Peace Park and the current Boil Water Notice in place in Ballindaggin.

A brief discussion then took place regarding reasons for issuing Boil Water Notices.

7.0 Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members.

It was agreed to schedule a Protocol Meeting before the next monthly meeting to review Standing Orders.

8.0 Correspondence

None

9.0 Any Other Business

Cllr. Browne and Cllr. O'Rourke thanked all involved for the provision of a Sensory Street for St. Patricks Day. On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Rourke and seconded by

Cllr. Owens it was agreed that that the provision of more permanent autism/sensory supports in the town should be explored.

The date for the next Municipal District Meeting is set for Monday April 25th at 3pm.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE