

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE PRESENTATION
CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY
25th APRIL 2022 AT 3.00 P.M.**

Attendance:

Councillors: Cathal Byrne (Cathaoirleach)
Kathleen Codd-Nolan
John O'Rourke
Aidan Browne
Jackser Owens
Barbara Anne Murphy

Officials: Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
Ms. Bernie Quigley, A/District Administrator
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Mr. Brendan Cooney, Senior Executive Scientist
Ms. Majella Ryan, A/Staff Officer
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer EMD
Mr. Ian Plunkett, Environmental Technician

**Attendees via
Microsoft Teams**

Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Verona Murphy, TD.
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Planning
Mr. Eoghan Greene – Ancient Connections Project

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

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

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

1.2 Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 15th March 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. Owens, seconded by Cllr. Browne, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 15th March 2022 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.3 Matters Arising

Cllr. Byrne advised that it was his intention to meet relevant groups in relation to the provision of more autism friendly features for Enniscorthy prior to the next meeting.

Cllr. Owens expressed his dissatisfaction at the lack of response to the letter issued to Minister McGrath in March in relation to the Flood Defence Scheme. All members

concluded and on the proposal of Cllr. Browne, seconded by Cllr. Codd Nolan it was agreed to issue a further letter to the Minister regarding same.

Cllr. O'Rourke sought an update on the site at St. Johns and queried if a response had been received to the letter issued to the HSE in this regard. Ms. Quigley advised that to date no response had been received.

A brief discussion took place regarding the walkway at Castle Hill and the proposal to name the steps 'Wilkie Way'. It was decided to consult with the family about this issue.

Cllr. O'Rourke also sought updates about provision of autism friendly parking bays in the town.

Cllr. Owens queried an update regarding the memorial for those who have lost their lives in the River Slaney. The A/District Administrator advised she is currently waiting for a response from Community Department in relation to same.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Planning

Ms. Niamh Lennon was in attendance to address the Members concerns.

Cllr. O'Rourke raised an issue of concern regarding a current proposed housing development at Carleysbridge which seeks to utilise the green area between Urrin Valley and Millbrook housing developments for access purposes. He clarified that while he has no objection to the development or the provision of additional homes in the area, he is concerned about the green area currently utilised by residents being developed as part of the scheme.

A brief discussion took place regarding the processes involved in land disposal.

Cllr. Browne also expressed his concern regarding the use of this green area. Ms. Lennon advised that she was unable to discuss the proposed development as it was a current application.

Cllr. Codd Nolan raised concerns over current pre planning meeting delays. A general discussion took place regarding the importance of these meetings to both Wexford County Council and the public in general. Ms. Lennon advised on the purpose of pre planning meetings and it was noted that the backlog will be addressed once a full complement of staff is achieved in the Planning Department. The Director of Service advised that offers of appointments had been made but that the process may still take several weeks before staff are in place.

Cllr. Byrne also expressed his concern over the housing development application at Carleysbridge and the use to the green area and noted that the green area of current estates should not have to suffer to provide for access for new developments.

2.2 Housing

Cllr. Owens raised concerns over low allocation numbers in the Enniscorthy area in comparison to other towns.

Cllr. Murphy raised concerns over the lack of single house applications overall and suggested that maybe Enniscorthy should look to increasing these application types.

Cllr. Murphy also sought updates regarding vacant houses in Marconi Park and the illegal dumping issues currently being experienced in this area, including at Na Coillte, Bunclody.

Cllr. Owens supported Cllr. Murphy's concerns regarding the vacant site at Marconi Park and queried as to why it's not being utilised for development. He expressed his concern over the current lack of housing opportunities for applicants in the area.

Cllr. Browne concurred and hoped to meet with Michael Drea, Housing to discuss further. The cost of works to the house on the Ross Road was also queried by Cllr. Browne and Cllr. Owens.

Cllr. Codd-Nolan supported Cllr. Murphy's view that smaller sized developments in smaller towns like Bree and Bunclody are vitally important and suggested that Housing consider proposals in this regard.

Cllr. O'Rourke suggested engagement with other voluntary housing bodies to ascertain the potential for them to develop existing land banks or rural areas with development potential.

Cllr. Murphy expressed her concerns about the lack of housing opportunities for the people of Wexford and requested that any land owned by Wexford County Council be considered as opportunities to develop, especially where existing services were available.

Cllr. Byrne sought an update about allocation of properties in Castlelands, Ferns.

Ms. Redmond addressed the Members concerns as follows:

- Allocations could only be processed in the areas where properties are ready for re-letting.
- Not in a position to comment on One Stage Applications, will request an update from Shay Howell and will revert in advance of the next meeting.
- The vacant homes issue in Marconi Park should be addressed by the end of June with one existing tenant moving back into a property and applicants being considered for the other.
- No responses were received by Housing in relation to the provision of hotels or B&Bs for emergency accommodation.
- The house on Ross Road was at final snagging stage with an estimated view of being ready to re-let by the end of May. An update regarding the final account will be requested from Shay Howell.
- The contractor is due to be appointed soon to develop the site in Marconi Park which should address the illegal dumping on the site.
- Adverts have recently been placed looking for expressions of interest and development land for potential housing sites.
- The Senior Executive Officer in Housing attends regular meetings with other voluntary housing bodies and the Members concerns would be passed on regarding any development opportunities in this regard.
- The development at Castlelands Ferns is to be allocated in two phases with nine properties before the end of June and eleven shortly after.

2.2 Community

Cllr. Codd Nolan sought an update regarding honouring the memory of those who lost their lives or suffered during the pandemic. Ms. Quigley advised that discussions were ongoing with the Heritage Officer, Ms. Catherine McLoughlin.

Cllr. Owens asked if a Civic Reception for the Rapparees team who won the County Final after twenty years was proposed. Cllr. Byrne advised that it was hoped to hold a second reception later in the year.

Cllr. Owens raised the issue over lack of facilities currently available at Vinegar Hill especially regarding poor bus access and toilet facilities. A brief discussion took place regarding developing this site and challenges involved in doing so. Cllr. Byrne requested that Vinegar Hill and its development be placed on the agenda for the May Meeting of this Committee.

Cllr. Owens raised concerns over the overhanging trees at the Murphy Floods site and asked for immediate attention.

On the proposal of Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Murphy, it was recommended that the Heritage Officer attend the next monthly meeting.

2.2 Environment

Mr. Brendan Cooney, Senior Executive Scientist delivered a presentation on Air Quality to the Members.

A brief discussion took place and Mr. Cooney addressed all queries raised.

Further issues in relation to littering along the R746 Road and the N80 were raised by Cllr. Murphy and Cllr. Codd Nolan. Mr. Neil Dempsey advised that subject to available resources he would seek to address this issue. It was noted that the N80 clean-up would require discussions with TII and costs for traffic management provision would be a concern.

2.2 Libraries

Cllr. Murphy raised the importance of marking the influence of Eileen Gray and her achievements in our district and how it might benefit Enniscorthy in general. A discussion about the current Eileen Gray exhibition currently on display in County Hall, Wexford took place with Ms. Godkin advising on same. Cllr. Codd Nolan acknowledged the importance of acknowledging such exceptional ability in the district.

2.3 Fire Services

Cllr. Murphy asked for an update report regarding the staffing issues in the Fire Services department.

4:15 At this juncture of the meeting, Cllr. O'Rourke departed the meeting.

3.0 Municipal District Report.

Ms. Quigley outlined the main points of her report for the Members. The Members raised a number of queries, including:-

- Development of Astro Turf Pitch, Ross Road – clarification on status. Ms. Godkin advised it was currently under Part VIII Planning Process.
- Possibility of installing dog bins in areas at Templeshannon.
- Update on provision of more water sources at Bunclody Graveyard and increasing pressure at tap currently in situ.
- Requests received from Cllr. Codd Nolan for maps of Enniscorthy Trails at next meeting.
- The North Business District – now that tender documents have been approved when can works be expected to start.

Ms. Quigley responded to all queries raised.

Mr. Dempsey addressed the issue of the North Business District and advised that tenders were currently being evaluated.

Cllr. Byrne supported the provision of dog bins in Templeshannon and welcomed the tender documents being approved for the Sports Hub development. He sought an update on the Part VIII for the Murphy Floods site and was advised by Ms. Godkin that there should be an update issued before Summer.

7.0 Comhairle na nÓg.

It was decided to take this item at this juncture of the meeting.

A presentation was made by members of the Comhairle na nÓg group and their mentor. Discussions took place on the importance of mental health facilities for our young people and the Members assured the group that they would assist wherever possible, to ensure they receive full support in their endeavours. The Members commended the young participants for the presentation and their continued efforts working for the youth of the County.

3.0 Ancient Connections Project.

Mr. Eoghan Greene delivered a presentation to Members on the Ancient Connections Project via MS Teams. He addressed any questions from the Members and a brief discussion took place then regarding the Creative Camino route. The Members thanked Mr. Greene for his presentation.

4.0 Roads Report.

Mr. Dempsey briefed the Members on this report. The following issues were raised by the Members.

- Possibility of looking at Munster Hill under Active Travel Initiative.
- Local Improvement Scheme updates.
- Speeding issues at Summerhill/Bohreen Hill.
- Crossings for pedestrians near the Athenaeum and lack of markings.
- Footpath issue at Community School near Paddocks.
- When will cutting of overgrowth at junctions commence?
- Drainage issues at Kilgibbon in Bree with water run-off from hill.
- Rossard Road Repairs on R746.
- Tree growing out of Slaney Bridge in Bunclody and possible root damage.

- Trees on Mall, Bunclody and other ways to stop people tripping on roots.
- Moving of street bin on the Mall, Bunclody.
- Commencement date for installation of Pedestrian Crossings at Graveyards in Enniscorthy.
- Railing in Fairgreen and when works will commence.
- Footpath at Tomduff.
- Possibility of a footpath and lights on Esmonde Road

Mr. Dempsey responded to all issues raised.

5. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

Mr. McHale highlighted the main points of his report, circulated prior to the meeting. He briefly discussed the process of separating the scheme so that bridge issues could be addressed.

Cllr. Byrne asked whether Planning was being sought from An Bord Plenála or the OPW. Cllr. Owens expressed his concerns over the freshwater pearl issue and the lack of notification for the Members regarding the approval of bridge element of FDS. Cllr. Codd-Nolan sought clarification on the time frame now being perceived for the project. Cllr. Owens asked if written confirmation for bridge project had been received.

Mr. McHale addressed the Members concerns. He advised that the OPW will be deciding on the project. He spoke briefly of correspondence received from the Department in relation to floating river vegetation. The exact timeline of project now remained unclear. He further clarified all information received by him directly for the Members.

On proposal of Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Codd Nolan it was decided at this juncture of the meeting to postpone the Standing Orders.

6.0 Water Services Report

Mr. O'Corcora outlined the content of his Water Services Report. He further advised that he hoped for an update soon on the Boil Water notice currently in place for Ballindaggin.

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

8.1 Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Browne the schedule of Municipal District Works was agreed by all Members.

8.2 Amendments to Standing Orders.

On the proposal of Cllr. Owens, seconded by Cllr. Murphy, amendments to the Standing Orders were agreed by the Members.

8.3 Amenity & Arts Grants and Residents Association Grants 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. Owens, seconded by Cllr. Codd Nolan the allocation lists for the Arts and Amenity Grants and Residents Grants 2022 were agreed as presented.

9.0 Any Other Business

Votes of Sympathy:

Cllr. Murphy discussed the importance of showing support to the families of Mr. Aidan Moffitt and Mr. Michael Snee who tragically lost their lives recently in Sligo. Cllr. Browne agreed with this sentiment and on the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Byrne it was agreed to show support to their families.

Congratulations:

Cllr. Codd-Nolan extended congratulations to Maria Nolan on the publishing of her second novel.

Cllr. Owens extended congratulations to Michelle O'Neil on refereeing the European Championship Semi Final in Germany.

Cllr. Murphy wished to thank the 1916 Commemoration Committee for all their efforts on Easter Monday.

Cllr. Murphy and Cllr. Codd-Nolan extended congratulations to the Kilrush Drama Group and the Bunclody/Kilmyshall Drama Group on reaching the final of their competitions which are due to take place in early May.

Cllr. Browne discussed a recent letter received by him regarding the provision of more autism friendly camps and budget summer activities in the town. On the proposal of Cllr. Browne and seconded by Cllr. Owens it was agreed that more autistic friendly camps and supports need to be facilitated in the town.

Cllr. Byrne concurred with this thought and stated the importance of all voices being heard.

5:47PM: On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Owens the meeting proceeded to In-Committee.

Roads

On the proposal of Cllr. Codd-Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Owens it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the Local Improvement Scheme 2022 as presented.

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Browne the Members agreed to proceed with the Proposed Programme of Works 2022.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE