

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 19th October 2022 in The Tholsel, New Ross.**

Presiding: Councillor Michael Sheehan – Cathaoirleach

In Attendance:

Councillor Anthony Connick
Councillor Pat Barden
Councillor John Fleming
Councillor Michael Whelan
Councillor Bridin Murphy

Officials Present:

Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director
Annette O'Neill – Head of Finance
Daniel McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services - Teams
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing- Teams
Fintan Ryan- Senior Executive Engineer
Tom Fox – Vacant Homes Officer
Sharon Ryan – Assistant Staff Officer
Eoin Furlong- Clerical Officer

Others Present:

David Looby – Press
Deputy Verona Murphy- Teams

Apologies:

David Murphy – A\Executive Engineer, Roads

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all attendees both in person and through Teams, to the meeting. Standing orders were suspended, on the proposal of Cllr. Connick and seconded by Cllr. Murphy to allow for presentations by Annette O'Neill, on the Draft Budgetary Plan and by Tom Fox on Croí Conaithe.

Presentation on Draft Budgetary Plan

A presentation was given by Annette O'Neill, who following the presentation, responded to questions from the Members. The draft budgetary plan was adopted by the Members on the proposal of Cllr. Connick, seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Presentation on Croí Conaithe

A presentation was given by Tom Fox, who following the presentation, responded to questions from the Members.

It was clarified that only urban applications are currently being processed; rural applications will be processed from mid-November.

It was clarified that the scheme is applicable to apartments which are over shops; however, it must be the property owner who applies.

Following a query from Cllr. Sheehan, it was clarified that applications are currently taking two weeks to process.

Expression of Support

The Members expressed their confidence and support of the District Manager.

Sympathies

The Members sympathised with the Tobin family on the death of Martin; the Walsh family on the death of Paul; the Malone family on the death of Stephen; the Rochford family on the death of Anthony; the Blanche family on the death of Noel; the Monaghan family on the death of Mary; the Kelly family on the death of Seamus; the Bradley family on the death of Johnny; the Sinnott family on the death of Thomas and the Whelan family on the death of Michael.

Congratulations

Cllr. Whelan and Cllr. Barden congratulated John Whelan who was one of two Irishmen crowned world ploughing champion. He also congratulated Sean Keating, Noel Byrne and Stephen Whelan on their success in the championship.

Cllr. Murphy and Cllr. Fleming congratulated all involved in the very successful Eugene O'Neill festival.

Cllr. Murphy congratulated all those involved in the opening of the High Hill Gardens. Cllr. Murphy also congratulated all those who were successful in the Community Centres Investment Scheme.

Cllr. Barden congratulated St. Abban's GAA, Adamstown on winning the Wexford Intermediate 'A' football championships and St. Mogue's GAA, Fethard-on-Sea on winning the Wexford Intermediate football championships.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2022 were proposed as presented by Cllr. Anthony Connick and seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

2.1 District Managers Report

The District Manager delivered his report and responded to queries raised by the Members.

New Ross Christmas 2022

The District Manager gave an update on the progress of the Christmas festival and informed the Members that the Christmas lights will be switched on Saturday, 19th November, by Cllr. Sheehan and Dami Hope of Love Island fame.

Opening of St. Stephen's Cemetery Extension

The St. Stephen's Cemetery extension, which includes a columbarium wall, will be officially opened on 2nd November at 14.30.

Commemoration of Armistice Day at the World War 1 Monument in St. Stephen's Cemetery

The Chairman, Cllr. Michael Sheehan, will lay a wreath at the WWI memorial in St. Stephen's Cemetery on Friday, 11th November in recognition of those who served in the Great War from the New Ross District.

Baginbun Festival

The Baginbun Festival will take place on Sunday, 30th October at 14.00.

Eugene O'Neill Festival

The District Manager reported that the Eugene O'Neill Festival was a great success and brought great footfall into the heart of the town.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles Town and Village

The District Manager reported that work is continuing on the Brennan's Lane/Shambles Town and Village project.

CCTV

The District Manager gave an update on CCTV which is currently at the Data Impact Assessment stage.

The Members agreed to invite the new Business Development Officer to the November meeting.

The Members agreed to send a letter to the New Ross Drama Festival expressing their condolences on the death of Paul Walsh, R.I.P.

The Members noted that Mount Carmel Lace is looking for a permanent exhibition space and any support would be appreciated.

The Members requested that contact details for new staff be sent to them regularly. The District Manager agreed that this would be arranged.

The Members agreed to write to the HSE expressing their concern in relation to a local man who had to wait for over four hours for an ambulance to arrive.

Destination Towns

The District Manager gave an update on the Destination Towns Project.

2.1a Special Projects Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

Fintan Ryan, Senior Executive Engineer gave a presentation on the progress of the Brennan's Lane/Shambles project and responded to questions from the Members.

Cllr. Whelan queried whether a disabled car park space would be provided. The Director clarified that there are currently two spaces in South Street and spaces in Barrack Street. As Brennan's Lane will be fully accessible this is seen as sufficient.

Cllr. Barden queried if the old doors would remain on the Shamble's or if it will remain open 24/7. It was clarified that the heritage of the doors will be retained and that the building will not remain open 24/7. The opening hours are yet to be decided.

Following a query from Cllr. Fleming regarding the Murphy Building, the SEE reported that Failte Ireland are currently assessing the interpretation of the Murphy Building. When this is complete the project will be in the tender process.

Following a query from Cllr. Fleming regarding the

2.2 Roads Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.3 Water Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.4 Housing Report

The housing report was delivered by the Administrative Officer, Housing who responded to the Members queries.

The AO advised Members that the deadline for the SSHA has passed; however if there were any applications outstanding that they should be sent in immediately.

The mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024 is currently ongoing. The Members noted that the assessment of need identified an additional 26 families and the targets have been amended to reflect this.

Correspondence has been received from Respond in relation to the old convent in New Ross. A stage 1 application must be submitted with revised costings. The proposed development would consist of 10 units.

Following a query from Cllr. Whelan, the AO is to clarify the Housing Maintenance figures and revert to the Members.

Following a query from Cllr. Sheehan, the AO informed the Members that the tender for enabling work in Rosbercon is due back on 24/10.

2.5 Planning Report

The planning report was made available to the members.

The Members noted that a new planner will be assigned to New Ross from mid-November.

2.6 Planning – Grants

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.7 Planning – Refusals

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.8 Libraries, Archives & Arts Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.9 Community, Development Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.10 Environment Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.11 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.12 Members Portal Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

3.0 Business prescribed by Statue, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

4 Other Business

4.1 Presentation by Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance on the Draft Budgetary Plan

This presentation took place earlier in the meeting.

4.2 Presentation by Tom Fox, Vacant Homes Officer on Croí Conaithe

This presentation took place earlier in the meeting.

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

The letter of thanks from the Kennedy Summer School was noted by the Members.

7.0 AOB

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____