

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE PRESENTATION
CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY
16TH MAY 2022**

Attendance:

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

Officials: Ms. Carlyne Godkin, Director of Services
Ms. Bernie Quigley, A/District Administrator
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. Shay Howell, Senior Executive Architect, Housing
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Ms. Majella Ryan, A/Staff Officer
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer EMD
Ms. Oonagh Mesette, Project Co-Ordinator, Community

Apologies: Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer, Roads.

**Attendees via
Microsoft Teams** Ms. Verona Murphy, TD.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the April Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 25th April 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Browne, the Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 25th April 2022 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach subject to the following amendment.

“Cllr. Codd Nolan recommended that consideration be given to the provision of an Interpretative Centre on Vinegar Hill.”

At this juncture of the meeting, the Members extended Votes of Sympathy and Congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended Votes of Sympathies to the following families;

- The O'Connor Family of Moran Park on their recent loss.
- The Moorehouse Family of Slaney View Park on the death of Fintan, RIP.
- The Redmond family of Andy Doyle Close on the death of Mr. Kevin Redmond, RIP.
- The Nolan Family, Castledockrell on the death of Mr. Paddy Nolan, RIP.

The Members wished Mr. John Walsh a full recovery to good health.

Congratulations

The Members extended their Congratulations to the following:

- Bree United on winning the Billy Browne Cup.
- Ajax United on their recent victory.
- Bunclody Kilmynshall Drama group on coming 2nd in the All Ireland and winning Best Set and Best Lighting categories.

1.2 Matters Arising

Cllr. Owens sought an update regarding the provision of water tanks in the Graveyard in Bunclody and was advised by Ms. Quigley that quotations for same were hoped to be received in the next week.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Planning

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

The following concerns were raised by the Members and addressed by Ms. Carton:

- Update in relation to the recruitment of staff to the Planning Department. Ms. Godkin stated that it was hoped to have appointments in place soon and advised efforts were ongoing to address the pre planning meeting backlog.
- Cllr. Murphy queried the reasons for the high rate of invalid planning applications and requested that an analysis for these reasons be carried out.
- Cllr. Codd Nolan queried the refusal rate and a brief discussion took place on possible reasons for same.

2.2 Housing – Bunclody Development

Mr. Shay Howell delivered a presentation to the Members on the proposed development for a new town park in Bunclody.

Cllr. Owens supported this proposal and sought clarification on the potential loss of parking spaces and playground size. Mr. Howell clarified this issue and advised that land access would be made available in this development. Cllr. Codd Nolan supported the proposal and sought clarification on the land ownership involved and raised concerns about potential flooding incidents. Cllr. Murphy welcomed the proposal overall and the impact it would have for Bunclody.

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Owens the members agreed to fully support this development and expressed their wishes that this project would be progressed as soon as possible.

Cllr. O'Rourke sought clarity in relation to land acquisition and costs relating to the project. He requested that the playground facilities be suitable for children with special

needs. Mr. Howell had no information regarding costs, however he ensured that the equipment placed in the playground would be suitable for all.

2.2 Housing

Cllr. Byrne thanked Ms. Redmond for reverting on queries raised at previous meeting.

The following issues were raised by the members:

- Cllr. Owens raised concerns over the costings for pre letting works on the unit on the Ross Road. A brief discussion took place with Mr. Howell in relation to these works where he clarified any issues raised regarding this development. Cllr. Owens also discussed his concern over the lack of emergency accommodation in the district.
- Cllr. Browne expressed his concern at the unnecessary extras being incurred during these works. He also sought clarity on development of the house at Marley and allocations in Carleysbridge.
- Cllr. Codd Nolan raised concerns regarding the lack of availability for emergency accommodation for the homeless and sought clarity on the current status of Ukrainian refugees in the County.
- Cllr. Murphy raised issues regarding the lack of single stage applications in the district where services were readily available but not being applied for. She raised concerns over the policies in place for Anti-Social Behaviour in our estates and sought clarity on the meeting due to be held with Túath regarding Bunclody.
- Cllr. Byrne sought clarification on the breakdown of potential units to be delivered at the LAG site in Bunclody. Cllr. Murphy sought clarity on the cost of building these units.
- Cllr. O'Rourke discussed the campus at St. Johns and suggested that further correspondence be issued to the HSE with regard to releasing unused lands for development to avoid wasted opportunities. He also raised concern about the lack of daytime shelter for our homeless who are forced to leave their emergency units each morning until late in the evening.

The Housing Officials responded to all concerns raised as follows:

- It was noted that the unit on the Ross Road is now watertight as a result of recent replastering. Funding is being sought from other sources to address costs where possible.
- It was further noted that house at Marley was awaiting funding for development.
- Carleysbridge – majority of houses have been allocated and accepted, some awaiting Garda clearance.
- Following advertising, it was noted that no response was received to the request for Emergency Accommodation in the District.
- All concerns regarding Anti-Social behaviour should be directed to the Housing Liaison Officers and Ms. Redmond invited the members to email her regarding same.
- A preplanning meeting with Túath Housing Association is scheduled for 17th May regarding the LAG lands in Bunclody.
- Ms. Godkin updated the Members on the current status of the Ukrainian displaced persons in the district. It was noted that Wexford was among the top four counties in Ireland currently providing accommodation for the crisis, a very challenging time for all involved. A brief discussion took place regarding available funding to assist with the displaced persons in our communities.

- A brief discussion took place regarding Homeless provision services and when they are utilised, with emphasis placed on the extreme shortage of accommodation currently available.

16:19 Cllr. John O'Rourke left the meeting.

6.0 Heritage Programme

The Members agreed to take Item No. 6 and 7 at this juncture of the meeting.

Catherine McLoughlin, Heritage Officer presented her report to the Members. The Members raised the following comments to which Ms. McLoughlin responded.

- Cllr. Codd Nolan sought clarification regarding old graveyards in the district and highlighted the mass grave site from 1798, She also requested funding be considered for works at Ballylennon graveyard in Ballycarney.
- Cllr. Murphy briefly discussed further potential works on Slaney Street.
- Cllr. Browne sought clarification on the location of the Civil War Panel and if any consideration was being given to the areas of Ferns and Bunclody under this programme.

7.0 Vinegar Hill.

Catherine McLoughlin attended the meeting to discuss proposals for Vinegar Hill.

Cllr. Byrne discussed the need to maximise all aspects of Vinegar Hill and address the three main issues affecting its potential, i.e.. local access, toilet facilities and lack of connection with the 1798 Centre. He also suggested an Interpretative Centre be considered when addressing these issues and stated all options for potential funding applications to fund this development be explored.

Cllr. Owens welcomed proposals to enhance Vinegar Hill and highlighted his concerns in relation to local access and toilet issues.

Cllr. Codd Nolan supported Cllr. Owens and discussed the importance of this site for visitors to Enniscorthy stating how an Interpretative Centre at this location would be hugely successful.

Cllr. Murphy welcomed proposals to enhance Vinegar Hill, but noted that any development should not impact negatively on any aspect of this site and every effort should be made to preserve its landscape.

Cllr. Browne concurred with the above, highlighting the importance of securing funding. He suggested clarity be sought with regard to what planning constraints may be in place regarding any development.

Ms. McLoughlin noted all the Members concerns and briefly discussed critical factors such as landscape and how this might impact development. Ms. Godkin also briefly discussed issues and ideas surrounding the development of this site and advised that Catherine McLoughlin be invited back to the September meeting of this committee to further discuss the plan.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Owens it was agreed to include Vinegar Hill on the agenda for June.

2.2 Community

Report was noted by the Members.

2.2 Environment

Report was noted by the Members.

2.2 Libraries

Report was noted by the Members.

2.2 Fire Services

Cllr. Murphy requested clarification on vacancies in the Fires Services and was advised by Ms. Godkin that there was no immediate concerns, however engagement with local communities during Covid had impacted recruitment campaigns.

2.3 Municipal District Report

Report was noted by the Members.

Cllr. Owens sought clarification on proposed dog bin locations in the town, requesting that consideration be given to locating one near the graveyard. Cllr. Murphy requested serious consideration be given to locating a number of dog bins in Bunclody.

3.0 Celtic Routes Project

Ms. Oonagh Messette presented to the Members on the "Celtic Routes" project. The Members thanked Ms. Messette for her attendance and information.

4.0 Roads Report.

In the absence of Mr. Neil Dempsey, Mr. O'Corcora reviewed the contents of the Roads report. The Members raised the following concerns.

- Cars being parked on footpath at St. Aidan's School.
- Dangerous condition of road from Greenville Lane to Moyne Road.
- Bridgemoor – no ramp in a preschool area and road markings missing.
- Parking situation at Coláiste Bríde.
- Repairs at Kiltilly Bridge – will it mean another closure of roads for residents.
- Irish Street Bunclody – yellow box requested for Wheelchair access.
- Clarification was sought on when the Speed Limit Review will be coming back to Members.
- Speeding from Blackstoops Roundabout on both roads leading to Enniscorthy town past both graveyards.

Cllr. Murphy extended her compliments regarding current works on the Mall in Bunclody.

5.0 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

Mr. McHale outlined the main content of his report for the Members. He confirmed the commitment of the OPW and the Ministers to the scheme. He briefly discussed the next steps in the Bridge Project.

Cllr. Owens briefly discussed the timeline history of the scheme and the reason for refusal. He expressed his disappointment at the Minister choosing not to visit the people of Enniscorthy following the refusal. Cllr. Codd Nolan requested clarification on whether there will be any necessary design changes.

Mr. McHale addressed all issues raised and briefly discussed the approach now required to progress the Flood Scheme Project. He further clarified that the planning application for the Bridge Project would be made to An Bord Plenála.

At 5:30pm, on the proposal of Cllr. Codd Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Owens, it was unanimously agreed to suspend the Standing Orders, to allow the meeting to continue.

8.0 Water Services Report

Mr. O'Corcora presented his report to the Members. The following issues were raised:

Cllr. Murphy recommended the provision of planting to improve fencing at the Orchard Peace Park and queried why the main gates remain locked.

Cllr. Owens raised concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour at the Orchard Peace Park.

Mr. O'Corcora advised that biodiversity planting was being considered to address the fence issue and the gate was closed to prevent unwanted parking. Cllr. Murphy suggested bollards be installed so that gates could be left open.

Mr. O'Corcora hoped that the proposed CCTV installation in the park will help alleviate the anti-social behaviour. Ms. Quigley advised that discussions were ongoing with Gardai to address these issues.

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

9.1 Section 183 – Disposal of property at Bessmount, Caim.

On the proposal of Cllr. Codd Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Owens, the Members approved the Section 183 presented.

9.2 Proposed date for A.G.M.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Owens, it was unanimously agreed to hold the AGM on the 27th June, following the June monthly meeting of this committee.

10.0 Correspondence

No correspondence was noted at this time.

11.0 Any Other Business

None

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE