

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF  
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE  
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON WEDNESDAY  
17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022 AT 3.00 P.M.**

**Attendance:**

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

**Officials:** Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services  
Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager  
Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance  
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer  
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer  
Ms. Caroline Creane, Senior Staff Officer  
Ms. Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer  
Ms. Bernie Quigley, Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**1.1 Minutes of the September Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Codd-Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Byrne, the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

At this juncture of the meeting, it was agreed to take votes of sympathies and congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended Votes of Sympathies to the following families:-

- Cllr. Codd-Nolan on the sad passing of her Sister-In-Law.
- The Maguire family, St. Aidans Villas on their recent loss.
- The Sludds family, Glenbrien on the sad loss of their father.
- The Dobbs family, Sean Brownes Court on their recent loss.

## Congratulations

The Members extended congratulations to the following:

- Jordan Gainford, Jockey on winning the US Grand National.
- The Republic of Ireland Womens National Soccer Team who qualified for the 2023 FIFA World Cup.
- Slaney News on celebrating 10 years in business.
- Starlight's U16 Ladies Football Club on their recent Shield win.
- U15 Rapparees Hurling Team on winning the Premier Final.
- Bill Hendrick on his recent retirement from the Tyre Centre, Enniscorthy.

### **1.2 Matters Arising**

A number of updates were requested by the Members: -

- Request for meeting of the URDF Working Group.
- Defibrillator for the Presentation Centre.
- Clean up at the River Urrin.
- Naming of steps opposite the Enniscorthy Castle to 'Wilkie Way'.
- Update on inspection of Council houses prior to tenant transfers.

The Officials responded to all queries raised.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke the Members agreed that a Special Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy to discuss the URDF Report be scheduled for 12.30 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2022, prior to the November Monthly Meeting.

## **2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

### **2.1 Planning**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. A number of queries were raised by the Members, in particular an update on movement of Pre-Planning Meetings was requested.

### **2.2 Housing, Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service**

#### Housing

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The Members put forward a number of queries and concerns to which the officials responded.

- Completion date and breakdown of bed types for housing developments at the Forgelands, Old Forge Road, Enniscorthy and Castlelands, Ferns.
- The limited number of houses proposed for the Enniscorthy District – not sufficient to meet the needs of applicants on the housing list.
- Update on works to house in Marconi Park.
- Recommendation to engage with the HSE for the provision of 1 & 2 Bed Units in the Campus at St. Johns, Enniscorthy.
- Possibility of a single stage housing application for the provision of adaptable housing units.
- Request to re-engage with the principal at St. Patricks Special School in relation to utilisation of the campus.
- The need for emergency accommodation in Enniscorthy Town.

Ms. Creane undertook to circulate a breakdown of bed types for developments at Forgelands and Castlelands. It was noted that an expression of interest for turnkey units had been advertised by Wexford County Council with a closing date of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022. A brief discussion took place regarding single stage applications, and it was noted that these types of applications are only undertaken on nonproblematic sites.

Ms. Godkin confirmed that she is awaiting a date for a meeting with the HSE in relation to the campus at St. Johns.

In relation to homelessness the officials informed the Members that an expression of interest for the provision of emergency accommodation had been advertised, however, no response was received from Enniscorthy. It was noted that while Wexford County Council make every effort to accommodate families in their hometown, this is not always possible. Wexford County Council do however undertake to relocate families back to their hometown as soon as possible.

It was agreed to take Item No. 3 at this juncture in the meeting.

### **3. Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) 2023.**

Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance attended the meeting to discuss the Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) 2023. Ms. O'Neill stated that the report circulated prior to the meeting sets out the legislative basis for the plan with adoption of same being a reserved function of the council.

The Members put forward a number of queries to which Ms. O'Neill responded.

- Details of expenditure under headings H0905 and D0502.
- Budget for Town Twinning.

Following a brief discussion on the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke it was agreed to explore the reintroduction of a budget stream for the facilitation of Town Twinning for 2024.

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan the Members unanimously agreed the Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) 2023 as presented.

#### Community

The Members put forward a number of queries to the officials, in particular: -

- Community Allotments – request for consideration for the facilitation of an allotment in St. Senan's Parish.
- Consideration for the facilitation of markets in Market Square.
- Maintenance Plan for the Orchard Peace Park.
- Provision of lighting and enhanced promotion for the Orchard Peace Park.
- Signage for the Presentation Centre.
- Request for the car park at St. Aidan's School to be reopened to assist with parking issues at drop off and collection times.

The officials responded to all queries raised and it was noted that Wexford County Councils Allotment Policy includes support of one allotment in each district. The Director of Service stated the need to allow the current allotment time to develop before provision of a second one could be examined.

## Environment

A number of concerns were highlighted by the Elected Members, including: -

- A date for installation of new Litter Bins in Bunclody.
- Illegal dumping in drains throughout Enniscorthy Town.

Mr. Dempsey, Executive Engineer confirmed that the Roads Team were currently carrying out cleaning works to drains whereby a significant amount of rubbish is being retrieved. Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Mackey undertook to identify the black spots where this practise was happening and examine ways to resolve the issue.

## Libraries & Fire Service

The Members noted the reports circulated prior to the meeting.

A discussion took place regarding bonfires and the increased pressure being placed on emergency services at Halloween, in particular the Fire Service Department. Mr. Mackey stated that a plan to disrupt was in place, however, it's success would not be evident until after Halloween.

## **2.3 Municipal District Report**

Mr. Mackey, District Manager outlined the main points of his report circulated prior to the meeting.

A number of issues were raised and discussed, including:-

- Public Toilet on Vinegar Hill.
- Christmas Lights.
- Request for accessible play equipment in a number of Playgrounds throughout the district.
- Request for cleaning of streets in Ferns and Bunclody.
- Parking arrangements over the Christmas period.
- Special Projects report to be available for the November meeting of this Committee.
- Booking System for the Enniscorthy Sports Hub.
- Works to the Pedestrian Bridge on the Promenade Riverwalk.
- Erection of a Memorial Plaque on Main Street.

Mr. Mackey responded to all queries. It was noted that parking arrangements for Christmas is a centralised decision.

Cllr. Browne thanked the Director of Services and the District Manager for the provision of a Safe Cycle Park in Enniscorthy.

## **4. Roads Report.**

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer outlined the main points of the Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting.

The following requests were noted: -

- Repairs to Wilton Bridge – update.

- Clarification on works being carried out by TII at Ballycarney.
- Condition of road surface – road to Duffry Rovers GAA Pitch, roadway between Shamrock Rovers Soccer Club and the Shamrocks GAA club.
- Request for removal of wall in Hillview, Bree.
- Repairs to wall at entrance to Bellefield Springs, Enniscorthy.
- Safe Routes to School – details on what schools, costs and completion dates.
- Lighting from Ferns Village to the GAA Grounds.
- Parking on Main Street, Bunclody – issues with visibility to road users.

Mr. Dempsey responded to all queries and undertook to review issues raised and report back to the Members.

## **5. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.**

Mr. McHale, Project Resident Engineer updated the Members on the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme. Mr. McHale clarified a query raised in relation to traffic counters located in numerous areas throughout the Town. It was noted that these counters were in place to assess traffic queues and traffic movements at junctions and through the town and was being carried out by the Enniscorthy Urban Renewal Project and the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Project. A discussion took place on the current status of the new Bridge and the application and decision process of schemes of this nature.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan the Members agreed to write to the Minister for Public Reform expressing their disappointment with the decision process and asking for consideration to be given for appropriate changes to be made as a matter of urgency.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Murphy the Members agreed to suspend the Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue.

## **6. Water Services Report.**

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

- Water Supply – is it vulnerable to issue with electricity supply.
- Details under Planning Permission granted IW for increase in treatment capacity of Vinegar Hill Water Treatment Plant.
- Disposal of sludge from Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Mr. O'Corcora responded to all queries.

## **7. Vinegar Hill.**

Noted.

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

*8.1 Notice of Motion – Cllr. John O’Rourke*

*“I call on our Minister Heather Humphreys to review the pension for bereaved persons that the 6 weeks be continued with review for ongoing payment for one calendar year on a means tested continued payment”*

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Owens the Members unanimously agreed to ask Minister Heather Humphreys to review the pension for bereaved persons as outlined in Cllr. O’Rourke’s Notice of Motion.

**9. Correspondence.**

The Chairman asked that correspondence be discussed In Committee.

**12. Any Other Business.**

Cllr. Owens asked for clarification on the protocol for Members attendance at events and making speeches. The Director of Service responded.

17:38 On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. O’Rourke the Members agreed to proceed to In Committee to discuss Item No. 9, Correspondence.

The Chairman informed the Members of a request for a deputation. Details of the request were highlighted, and the Members discussed their role, if any, in a decision of this nature. The majority of Members felt that the decision fell under the remit of the officials in their executive function role.

Cllr. O’Rourke proposed, seconded by Cllr. Byrne that no deputation be facilitated.

As full agreement by all Members was not reached, it was agreed to proceed with a show of hands.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands in favour of support for the proposal by Cllr. O’Rourke. The proposal was supported 5 to 1 resulting in a decision that no deputation would be facilitated.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**DATE**