

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY,
19TH DECEMBER 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
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Caroline Creane, Senior Staff Officer
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Marie Butler, Clerical Officer

Votes of Sympathy:

At the outset Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager informed the Members of the death of Mr. Michael Jones, Area Engineer with Wexford County Council who passed away suddenly over the weekend.

Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan offered her sympathies to the family of Private Sean Rooney who was killed whilst on peace keeping duties in the Lebanon.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Byrne that the Council open a Book of Condolences for the late Private Rooney.

A minutes silence was then observed by the Members.

Congratulations:

The Members expressed congratulations to the following:-

1. Volunteers collecting for the St. Vincent de Paul.
2. Walter Bourke on his recent retirement from Walter Bourke Jewellers, Market Square.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- 1.1 **Minutes of the November Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 21st November 2022**

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

1.2 Minutes of Special meeting held in Committee on 1st December 2022

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan, the Minutes of the Special Meeting, held in Committee, of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on the 1st of December 2022 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Matters Arising

A number of updates were requested by the Members: -

- If a response had been received from correspondence forwarded to Minister Humphreys in relation to the Notice of Motion proposed at the October Meeting of this Committee.
- Update from the HSE regarding the Campus at St. John's.
- Update on the position of Tenant Liaison Officer in the EMD.

The officials responded to all queries raised and it was noted that an acknowledgement had been received from Minister Humphrey's office.

Mr. Mackey informed the Members that a number of senior personnel from the HSE who had been absent for a period of time were now back at work and he would hope to have a decision after Christmas with regard to the campus.

Mr. Mackey also informed the Members that interviews had recently been held and he would expect a Tenant Liaison Officer to be in place in the new year.

2. Town Centre First Plan.

The Elected Members noted that a number of meetings had now taken place in relation to the Town Centre First Plan. It was proposed by Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan that we proceed with the plan as circulated.

Cllr. Byrne stated that the reason for the plan was that when the Council sought funding previously, we were unsuccessful in securing any money. Now the fact that we have the proposed plan it may help in securing funding. He further stated that we have three TD's in the town and we need to get them on board to help secure funding. Members noted that we had a working group in place for the past 18 months to bring this plan to fruition and we now needed to secure funding and get it over the line. Members thanked Diarmuid Houston and Conor, Anthony, and all from Loci in preparing the plan and getting the plan to where it is today. All Members then agreed to pass the Town Centre plan.

3. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

3.1 Planning

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

3.2 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, in particular:-

- The lack of emergency accommodation in Enniscorthy.
- Members asked that with regard to tenants on HAP and where landlords are selling their property what is the situation for the tenants? The Minister for Housing who recently visited Wexford indicated that the Council could purchase and if so, is the money available?
- Wexford County Councils plan for building houses in Enniscorthy?
- Unit in Bunclody being used as a store when other houses being retrofitted, and this is not good enough.
- Number of landlords have informed tenants that they are selling their houses, but their houses are not appearing on any of the websites for sale.

The officials responded to all queries raised.

A lengthy discussion took place. The Director of Services stated that Enniscorthy only had a couple of emergency houses, and these are currently in use. Ms. Godkin continued by stating that the Council had advertised for expressions of interest for Enniscorthy but had received no response. It was noted that if someone presents as homeless from Enniscorthy, they will likely be temporarily housed in New Ross or Courtown.

Ms. Godkin further stated that if a person is in a HAP house and the landlord decides to sell, the tenant must get a proper Notice to Quit. If people have genuine Notices to Quit, then they need to contact Wexford County Council in this regard. It was noted that it was not the Council's responsibility to inform the Residential Tenancies Board of the sale.

Ms. Creane informed the Members that she was unaware of a unit being used as a store during retrofitting works and she undertook to come back to the Members in this regard.

The Director of Service stated that the Council had contacted a number of landlords who have informed tenants that they are selling their houses and they have not replied to Councils correspondence.

Community

Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan and Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy raised concerns with regard to the recent anti-social behaviour on the local link bus from Bunclody to Enniscorthy with the service in fear of being disbanded. The District Manager said that he was aware of this issue and that Garda had been informed. Mr. Mackey stated that it was all stemming from people home on holidays using the service. Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan asked if this item could be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Mackey confirmed that the quarterly meeting with the Garda Policing Committee had been scheduled for today but that same had now been deferred to January.

Cllr. Cathal Byrne congratulated Cllr. Aidan Browne on his recent election to the LCDC.

Environment

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The Members raised concerns that one of the Community Wardens was on long term sick leave and that this position needed to be filled temporarily until they return. The District Manager informed the Members that it was hoped to have a replacement after Christmas.

Cllr. O'Rourke highlighted the big rise in ESB costs and asked that we contact our three TD's to highlight this issue and ask that they contact the suppliers involved to see what could be done to eliminate fuel poverty.

Libraries & Fire Service

The Members noted the report circulated prior to the meeting.

3.3 Municipal District Report

Under this item the Members raised the following:-

- The Members welcomed funding becoming available to do the various works in the town.
- Progress on the Promenade walk.
- Cllr. O'Rourke informed the Members that the Sensory Hall at St. Patricks School was available for use by all the various bodies.
- The Members asked if we could look at the various structures around the town that had been used for outdoor dining and have same removed/cleaned up as they were now in danger of becoming derelict.

4. Roads Report.

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

The Members thanked Mr. Dempsey and the roads crew for the good work carried out throughout the year.

The Members raised the following issues to which Mr. Dempsey responded.

- Active Travel Scheme – contact person?
- Can we assess speed signs in Caim at the primary school?
- Speeding on the Killealy road.
- Relining of roads? When is it proposed that these works will take place?

5. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

Mr. McHale, Project Resident Engineer circulated his report to the Members. A number of issues were then raised by the Members to which Mr. McHale responded.

6. Water Services Report.

Mr. O’Corcora presented his report to the Members. Mr. O’Corcora responded to all queries raised.

7. Vinegar Hill.

Noted.

8. Draft policy to erect a Civic Memorial, Monument or Plaque – Enniscorthy Municipal District.

On the proposal of Cllr. John O’Rourke, seconded by Kathleen Codd Nolan the Members agreed to place the formation of a Sub-Committee on the agenda for the January Municipal District Meeting.

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

9.1 Section 183 Memo – proposed disposal of 0.98 acres of land at Moyne Upper.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cathal Byrne, seconded by Cllr. K. C. Nolan, it was agreed to proceed with the disposal of 0.98 acres of land at Moyne Upper, Enniscorthy.

10. Correspondence.

None.

12. Any Other Business.

The Chairman wished all Members, staff of Wexford County Council, members of the press and the people of Enniscorthy, a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. The District Manager wished to be associated with these good wishes.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE