

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD ON MONDAY 21ST
DECEMBER, 2020 AT 3.00 P.M.**

Attendance: Councillors:

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

Officials:

Mr. Ger Mackey, District Manager
Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Bernie Quigley, Staff Officer
Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner
Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer

Apologies: Officials:

Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer

1. Amendment of Enniscorthy Municipal Standing Orders so as to provide for remote attendance/remote voting by the Elected Members.

The District Manager outlined the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders of the Enniscorthy Municipal District to allow for remote meetings of the Municipal District and its sub-committees in light of the designation of the Local Authority in the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020 (S.I. No. 445 of 2020).

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Owens it was unanimously agreed to adopt the amendment to the Standing Orders as presented by the District Manager.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

2.1 Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 16th November, 2020

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Codd-Nolan, the Minutes of the In Committee Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of

Enniscorthy held on 16th November, 2020 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2.2 Minutes of the November Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 16th November, 2020

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Browne, the Minutes of the November Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 16th November, 2020 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2.3 Matters Arising

Councillor Owens asked if the position of Area Housing Officer for Enniscorthy had been filled. Ms. Donoghue confirmed that Mr. Ronan Griffin had been appointed and will take up duty on the 2nd January, 2021. The Members welcomed this appointment and wished Mr. Griffin the best of luck in his new appointment.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

3.1 Planning

Ms. Niamh Lennon attended the meeting to discuss planning matters and updated the Members on the Planning Report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that the public display period for the Draft County Development Plan had ceased with submissions being currently reviewed. It was further noted that the new Draft Development Plan would be brought before the Members in February or March, 2021.

The Members raised a number of queries, including the length of time it currently takes for the facilitation of a pre-planning meeting. Ms. Lennon responded to all queries.

3.2 Housing, Community, Environment, Libraries and Fire Service

Housing

Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer highlighted the main points of the Housing Report circulated to the Members prior to the meeting. A number of queries were highlighted by the Members, in particular:-

- Completion date for 27 Ross Road, Enniscorthy.
- Painting required for housing development in Clohamon.
- Daphne View – access issues.
- House type of houses at Old Forge, Milehouse Road, Enniscorthy.
- Allocation of apartments in Templeshannon.
- House voids.

- Request for a more specific Housing Report for the Enniscorthy Municipal District Meetings.

Ms. Donohue responded to all queries raised.

Community

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Issues raised included:-

- Walkways at Orchard Peace Park – eroding and not wheelchair friendly.
- Graveyard Bye-Laws – the provision of people digging their own graves.

Environment

The Members commended the provision of dog bins in the town and asked if consideration could be given to the extension of this programme to provide bins in a number of other hot spot areas in the town. The District Manager confirmed that this scheme will be extended, however, people are strongly encouraged to bring home dog bags to their own household bins. A brief discussion took place.

Libraries & Fire Service

Councillor Murphy congratulated the Fire Service on their recent fundraiser for Pieta House. Councillor Murphy asked if the chimney cleaning programme which had been carried out in all Local Authority houses had ceased. The District Manager undertook to seek clarification on this matter.

3.3 Enterprise

It was noted that no report had been submitted for Enterprise. The Members asked that a report be submitted for each month for discussion.

3.4 Municipal District Report

Mr. Mackey, District Manager updated the Members on the main points of his report, circulated prior to the meeting, in particular:-

- Technology Park.
- Shop Local Enniscorthy Campaign.
- Enniscorthy Trails Feasibility Study Project
- Sports Hub.
- Smart Business Hub.

The District Manager took this opportunity to thank the Gardai and the Fire Service for their assistance with the Christmas Festival. A discussion took place and the Members thanked all involved in the Enniscorthy Christmas Festival, in particular they highlighted the activities around Market Square, which was a great success. A thank you was also extended to Rathnure Pantomime Society for their input into the festival.

The Members welcomed the near completion of the feasibility study for the Enniscorthy Trails along with the proposed appointment of Consultants to prepare designs for the pavilion building at the Sports Hub.

Councillor Codd-Nolan expressed her concerns regarding the crossing of the road at Market Square by children during the Christmas Festival. The District Manager confirmed that a Risk Assessment was carried out and he was unaware of any issues over the duration of Santas Village at Market Square.

Councillor Murphy highlighted the success of the Shop Local Campaign.

4. Roads Report.

Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora took this item. The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted by the Members and the following issues highlighted and discussed:-

- Traffic issues at Fr. Cullen Terrace and Barleyfield, Enniscorthy.
- Closure of St. Senans Lane.
- Request for Footpath from School to Community Centre in Killealy.
- Flooding at Killabeg, Ferns.
- Potholes, in particular the road from Monfin to St. Johns.
- Blocked drain at Boredale
- Request for addition of Greenville Lane to be added to the list of roads for gritting.

Mr. O'Corcora undertook to submit the above to Mr. Dempsey following the meeting.

5. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

Mr. Larry McHale updated the Members on the main points of the Flood Defence Scheme Report circulated prior to the meeting.

The Members expressed their disappointment that the scheme has not yet been signed off by the Minister and recommended that letters be submitted to both relevant Ministers, before Christmas outlining their concerns and disappointment.

6. Water Services Report.

Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer updated the Members on the Water Services Report circulated prior to the meeting. The Members put forward a number of questions to Mr. O'Corcora to which he responded.

Councillor Browne stated that at the previous meeting of this Committee he asked that a meeting be arranged with Irish Water to discuss the water supply in Enniscorthy. The District Manager confirmed that an email was forwarded to Irish Water seeking a meeting, to which they responded, informing him that they were not in a position to attend today's meeting as a number of staff were currently on leave. It was noted that Irish Water are very open to having a meeting with the Members which the District Manager intends to arrange for January, 2021.

A discussion took place and it was noted that significant investment was needed to provide a good supply of drinking water to the town. Councillor Byrne asked if a report providing details on leaks in the town could be prepared and circulated to the Members before the meeting with Irish Water takes place.

7. Derelict Sites Update.

Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning, attended the meeting to update the Members on Derelict Sites in the district. It was noted that at present there are nine properties in the Enniscorthy Municipal District listed on the Derelict Sites Register with a Section 8.2 Notice of intention to issue on a property in Ferns.

The Members put forward a number of queries to Mr. Banville who responded to same.

Councillor Browne asked what plans are proposed for Kickhams House which was purchased by Wexford County Council. Mr. Banville stated that he was not aware of the plans for this property.

A discussion took place on the property at 34 Island Road, Enniscorthy, the percentage of properties with no title, inspection of derelict properties and derelict properties in rural villages.

Councillor Owens asked what plans are proposed for the Murphy Floods Site. The District Manager stated that this was commercially sensitive and was not for discussion at this time.

Mr. Banville stated that if the Members wished for any property they feel should be included on the register to inform the Planning Department.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Owens, seconded by Councillor Codd-Nolan, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of the housing development at Parkton Mews, Enniscorthy.

9. Correspondence.

Mr. Mackey, District Manager informed the Members that he had met with a group of residents in Greenville Court, Enniscorthy regarding their concerns with anti-social behaviour. The District Manager stated that he proposed to work with Planning Enforcement and the Builder to see if any assistance can be given to the affected residents. He also stated that there is a need for Community Development in Enniscorthy and a discussion took place regarding the Council's SICAP Programme.

The District Manager undertook to invite a representative from the Community Department to a future meeting of this Committee. The Members thanked Mr. Mackey for meeting with the group.

10. Any Other Business.

The Director of Services took this opportunity to thank the Members, the frontline staff of Wexford County Council and the staff of the Enniscorthy District Office for their work and assistance during this very difficult year.

The Cathaoirleach thanked a number of people including, the media, the staff of the Enniscorthy Municipal District, local businesses, volunteers, fellow Members, all officials in attendance at each monthly meeting for their help and co-operation throughout 2020 and wished everyone a joyful and happy Christmas and a healthy 2021.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Browne the Members agreed to go into 'Committee' at this juncture of the meeting.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE