

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
ENNISCORTHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER, 2014
AT 6.30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
THE PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENISCORTHY.**

Attendance: Councillors: Barbara Ann Murphy (Cathaoirleach)

Johnny Mythen
Paddy Kavanagh
Keith Doyle
James Browne
Kathleen Codd-Nolan
Oliver Walsh
John O'Rourke

Officials: Mr. John Carley, Director of Services
Mr. David Minogue, District Administrator/Meetings Administrator
Mr. Rory O'Mahony, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Joanne Kehoe, Executive Engineer
Ms. Mary Clince, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended votes of sympathy to the following:-

- Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive on the death of his Father. Johnnie.
- Deirdre Wadding, on the death of her Father, Luke.
- The Doyle Family, Cooladine on the death of John.

A Minutes Silence was observed as a mark of respect.

Other

Congratulations were extended to the following on their recent successes:-

- Shamrocks G.A.A. Club on winning the Intermediate Hurling Championship.
- Breanna Sludds-Keane on her selection for the Irish Kickboxing Team
- St. Patrick's Pitch & Putt Club
- Bunclody N.S. on their victory in the Nicky Rackard League.
- Oulart Camogie Team
- The Wexford Co. Council Library Service

The Cathaoirleach and Members were unanimous in their praise of the Council staff and volunteers who the Members described, worked above and beyond the call of duty, both on traffic management and on the follow up to get damage rectified, during the flooding of Enniscorthy on Thurs/Friday, 13th & 14th November.

Mr. John Carley, on behalf of the Chief Executive, Tom Enright, expressed thanks to all staff of Wexford County Council who worked on the flood relief, to local Voluntary Groups, An Garda Siochana, Contractors who volunteered help, and to the general public for their patience. Mr. Carley stated that this recent flooding would give added momentum to the OPW in the implementation of the Slaney Flood Relief Scheme.

The Cathaoirleach and Members expressed their best wishes to Jacqui Hynes, Manager 1798 Centre and Enniscorthy Castle on her resignation and thanked her for all her hard work. They commended Jacqui on the successful hosting of Vinegar Hill Day. Members were hopeful that the momentum gained by Ms Hynes would not be lost, but would be built upon, and they wished her and her family every success in the future.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1. On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Oliver Walsh the Minutes of the October Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 8th October, 2014 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Chairperson.

1.2. Matters Arising.

1.2.1 Taking in Charge

Councillor Doyle enquired as to the status of Taking in Charge of Spencer's Court, Enniscorthy. Ms. Deirdre Kearns stated that this matter was being dealt with by Sean Kavanagh, Building Control. There was a new Department Circular in this regard and there were in the region of 140 Estates with applications to be taken in charge.

Mr. John Carley stated that this Department Circular was being reviewed in relation to its interpretation.

1.2.2 Funding for Projects

Councillor Keith Doyle enquired as to the monies from Town Council funds which he understood had been allocated to a number of town projects. Mr. Carley undertook to talk to Mr. D Minogue and revert to Councillor Doyle on this matter.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1 *Planning and Enterprise*

Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Senior Executive Planner attended the meeting to discuss decisions granted and refused within the Enniscorthy District from 1st October, to 31st October, 2014. No comments were raised.

2.2 *Housing, Community & Environment*

Councillor James Browne suggested that some of the open spaces on Housing Estates could be converted into wild flower areas.

Councillor Johnny Mythen and Councillor Paddy Kavanagh asked that the option of the provision of allotments in these areas be explored.

Councillor Oliver Walsh stated that the new Playground in Blackwater was being opened on Sunday next and he complemented the Playground Development Scheme, which, he said should be used to its full potential.

Councillor James Browne stated that the public art feature, cherries, located in the running track were now hidden and asked if they could be moved.

Councillor Paddy Kavanagh also enquired about repairs to “the Salmon”. Mr. O Mahony said he would price the moving and foundations for both fixtures.

A discussion took place in relation to the completion of the Running Track, work on the long jump, pins for the cage for Hammer Throw and an update in relation to the opening hours. Mr. Minogue informed the meeting that there was presently limited use for Groups and it was hoped to get a supply of staff from the Gateway Scheme for the running of the Track. He expected that the Track would be open to individual users from 10 am to 10 pm before Christmas.

Councillor John O'Rourke stated that there was an interest in using the centre of the track as a playing pitch. Mr. Minogue stated that the grounds would have to be left to mature for 12 months from the date sown.

The Members were assured that the Sports Hub did meet with international standards, despite the fact that there were additional modifications required. Councillor Barbara Ann Murphy expressed concern regarding the distressed appearance of the wooden structures on the Playground at The Promenade, Enniscorthy. Rory O Mahony assured the Meeting that despite the appearance of the wood, it was functionally safe for use.

2.3 *Roads & Water Services*

The Members raised a number of queries under this heading for consideration, which Mr. O'Mahony and Ms. Kehoe undertook to respond to same.

Mr. Minogue advised the Members that a programme of municipal works will be drawn up formally in the next two months, following the adoption of the 2015 Budget and this Programme of Works will come before the Members for their consideration and agreement.

In response to a query regarding flooding, Ms. Joanne Kehoe, Executive Engineer assured the Members that staff under her remit would carry out the cleaning of gullies on an ongoing basis. She stated that due to the recent unprecedented level of heavy rainfall, large amounts of debris were carried down from uphill areas of the town to more low-lying areas, resulting in the blocking of gullies in a short space of time.

Mr. John Carley stated that Wexford County Council were currently liaising with the OPW in approving the brief for the Flood Relief Scheme. A Project Engineer was being appointed and Irish Water, the OPW and Wexford County Council were close to completing contracts relating to the advanced works, and he was hopeful contracts would be signed before Christmas. The EBA has also made comments for consideration, and the OPW were arranging to meet with them.

8.00 p.m. At this juncture, Councillor O'Rourke left the Meeting.

Mr. Rory O'Mahony, Senior Executive Engineer, and Ms. Joanne Kehoe, Executive Engineer proceeded to give their formal report on the Flood Event from Thursday, 13/11/2014 to Friday 14/11/2014, in Enniscorthy.

Mr. John Carley thanked the Gardai for their co-operation. He told the Members that the County Fire Brigade Service were available at all times, together with the Fire Brigades from adjoining Counties. The Department of Defence and the Defence Forces were available and the Civil Defence were also available.

Councillor Johnny Mythen asked that an alternative designated Bus Stop be created, to be used in times of flooding.

Mr. David Minogue thanked the public for their vigilance and noted that while the footpaths remained open on the Bridge, this may have to be reviewed in terms of public safety.

3. Business prescribed by Stature, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members:

3.1 Amendment to Standing Orders

Mr. David Minogue circulated a draft of new Standing Orders for consideration by Members. The adoption of the amended wording was deferred.

4. Correspondence:

4.1 Correspondence

The Members noted receipt of a letter from the Presbyterian Church expressing appreciation of the contribution made by the former Town Council towards repair works to the Church.

6. Any Other Business:

6.1 1916

Councillor Keith Doyle proposed that An Post be written to re issuing a stamp for the centenary celebrations of 1916. Mr. John Carley confirmed that Mr. Bernard Browne, 1916 Committee had this matter in hand.

6.2 Clearstream

Councillor Keith Doyle welcomed the news of the creation of 100 new jobs in Clearstream. He expressed disappointment that the Chairman of Enniscorthy Municipal District was not invited to attend the recent launch and described the invitations to the announcement as politically motivated.

Mr. John Carley welcomed the creation of new jobs for Enniscorthy and stated that the Deputy Chief Executive did attend representing Wexford County Council and the Enniscorthy Municipal District. He also assured the Members that Wexford County Council were working closely with the IDA to ensure that Enniscorthy got every consideration in the creation of jobs.

Mr. David Minogue asked that the press use their discretion in printing the above remarks. He described the company as very private in nature and this was reflected in the relatively low key announcement. He too congratulated Clearstream on their loyalty to Enniscorthy and assured the company of the full support of the Municipal District.

6.3 Wexford Walking Trails

Cathaoirleach Councillor Barbara Ann Murphy brought to the attention of the Members attention a letter from Walking Trails Oulart/Enniscorthy/Bunclody, looking for continued support. It was agreed they be invited to give them an opportunity to give a presentation to the Enniscorthy Municipal District Council at the January 2015 Meeting.

It was also agreed that the Christmas Meeting be held on the afternoon of 17th December, 2014, followed by a Christmas Dinner. It was further agreed to extend the customary invite to all former Enniscorthy Councillors to attend this Christmas dinner.

On the proposal of Councillor Johnny Mythen, seconded by Councillor Paddy Kavanagh, it was agreed to enter into Committee to deal with the Parking Bye Laws.

Mr. David Minogue circulated a draft document for consideration by the Members on revision of parking areas with proposals to increase the parking revenue. Mr. Minogue stated that there was the capacity to add a considerable number of pay parking spaces, thereby increasing parking revenue and providing funding for all-year round free parking incentives at particular times.

Mr. Minogue asked that the report be treated as confidential. The Members agreed to consider the Report further in the New Year and that its implementation would best be achieved on an incremental basis.

A discussion took place in relation to free parking over the Christmas period. It was agreed that parking would be free after 12 noon on Fridays/Saturdays from Friday 28th November, 2014 and on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Christmas week.

The arrangements for the turning on of the Christmas lights were discussed. Mr. Minogue agreed to circulate the Members with the EBA Christmas Programme and it was also noted that the Cathaoirleach and Santa would switch on the Christmas lights on Saturday 6th December.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

SIGNED

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATED
