

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY,
27TH MARCH 2023 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 Service
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Ms. Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Mark Devereux, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing
Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Bernie Quigley, Staff Officer

Apologies:

Officials:

Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer
Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner on the sad passing of her sister Paula, RIP.

Congratulations:

The Members expressed congratulations to the following:-

- The Emergency Services on their excellent work in the recent fire at Wexford General Hospital.
- The Staff of Wexford General Hospital on their professionalism and handling of the safe evacuation of patients during the hospital fire.
- The Media for their coverage of the recent fire at Wexford General Hospital.
- Mr. Sutton, Abbey Square Dry Cleaners on his imminent retirement.
- The U16 Enniscorthy Ladies Rugby Club on reaching the Leinster Final recently.
- Mr. Callum O'Sullivan who represented Carlow and Kilkenny in the recent All-Ireland Darts Competition.

The Members extended best wishes and a speedy recovery to Mr. Ger Mackey, Senior Executive Officer.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Neville Shaw to Enniscorthy.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the February Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 20th February 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Murphy, the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 20th February 2023 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

The Members requested an update on the following:-

- Allocation of house at Carleysbridge.
- Usage of the Athenaeum.
- Provision of a dog bin at the Fairgreen.
- Letter to Minister McGrath requesting a meeting to discuss the refusal of the Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme.

The District Manager confirmed that a letter had issued to the Minister for Public Expenditure. In relation to usage of the Athenaeum, Ms. Lawless stated that the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach are in the process of arranging a meeting with the Committee to discuss.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

Community

The Community Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Environment

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The Members thanked Mr. Dempsey for the litter pick carried out on the N80 and raised the following concerns:-

- CCTV - update on legislation.
- Provision of a Waste Disposal Survey to be carried out in Bunclody.
- Dog fouling.
- Illegal dumping/fly tipping – use of WCC Resources to continue mitigation of the issue. The need for a zero-tolerance approach was highlighted and discussed along with the need for CCTV to assist with enforcement.
- Illegal dumping at Redmond Street, Patrick Street and Dromchatha.

- Re-installation of Litter Bins on The Mall, Bunclody.

The officials responded to all queries raised. The Director of Service stated that an internal team was currently being set up in Environment to look at new legislation and guidelines around CCTV for the purposes of illegal dumping. It was noted that presently Bunclody is well serviced with litter bins, however, the Executive Engineer undertook to look at the provision of an additional Big Belly Bin.

Libraries & Fire Service

The Members noted the Libraries and Fire Service Reports circulated prior to the meeting. The provision of free feminine hygiene products in all public libraries was highlighted and commended.

It was recommended that a Civic Reception be given to the Enniscorthy Fire Service.

2.3 Housing

At this juncture of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr. Owens, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke it was agreed to proceed to 'In Committee'.

Issues relating to a number of aspects of Housing provision were raised and discussed.

At 15:47 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The Members put forward a number of queries and concerns, in particular:-

- Allocation of housing units at Castlelands, Ferns.
- Housing construction.
- Housing Clinics.
- Notices of termination – eviction ban lift.

The officials responded to all queries raised.

Mr. Mark Devereux, Senior Executive Engineer attended the meeting to discuss the capital programme. Mr. Devereux stated that Wexford County Council have submitted a proposal to The Department of Housing for 100-105 units to be considered under PPP Bundle 6, which will be assessed and managed by the National Development Finance Agency.

It was noted that the security of serviced land throughout the County was a struggle, however, it is hoped that Wexford County Council will have access to funding of serviced land through the newly established Land Development Agency funding model once it is rolled out.

The Elected Members put forward a number of questions to Mr. Devereux including whether brown field sites were being considered for house construction. Mr. Devereux responded to all questions raised.

2.4 Municipal District Report

Ms. Lawless, District Manager outlined the main points of her report and updated the Members on all queries raised.

The Members raised queries in relation to the following:-

- Maintenance work at the Orchard Peace Park.
- Astro Turf Pitch – update on position of same.
- Short-term improvement measures at Murphy Flood Site.
- CCTV.
- Well Being and Active Garden – concerns re location of site.

Ms. Lawless stated that tenders are currently being assessed for the Astro Turf Pitch. It was noted that the CCTV in Enniscorthy is near public consultation stage, following which, the Bunclody Scheme will be progressed. It was further noted that any issues with the Well Being and Active Garden will be addressed at lease stage. Ms. Lawless undertook to look at the Murphy Flood Site in regard to some improvement measures.

Mr. Neville Shaw undertook to look at works at the Orchard Peace Park, subject to funding.

2.4.1 Outdoor Dining Scheme

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted and discussed. The Elected Members raised a number of concerns, including, consistency of furniture and maintenance of dining areas and structures. The District Manager confirmed that she is looking at a more consistent approach next year with perhaps the provision of a grant scheme to assist businesses with the upgrade. Mr. Dempsey outlined the difficulty with enforcement, in particular, in relation to sandwich boards and signage on footpaths.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Byrne the Members agreed to the proposed scheme as presented by the District Manager. It was further agreed that any premises not complying with the terms of the scheme will be subject to removal of all structures and signage displayed.

Festival Programme 2023

The District Manager circulated the draft Festival Programme for 2023 for the Enniscorthy Municipal District. Following a brief discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Murphy, the Members agreed the proposed programme subject the following amendment:-

- Bree Christmas Festival - €250.00.

Active Travel – Trip to Holland

The District Manager sought nominations for inclusion in a walking and cycling tour to Holland funded by the NTA under Active Travel. On the proposal of Cllr. Codd-Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Owens, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Byrne would represent the Enniscorthy Municipal District. The Members also recommended attendance by the Executive Engineer and Senior Executive Engineer.

3. Roads Report.

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

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Clarification regarding works in Ballindaggin – Local Improvement Scheme.
- Potholes.
- Public Lighting requirements.
- Safety measures at a number of schools throughout the district.
- Safe Routes to School – commencement of works at St. Aidan's.

5.00 p.m. – At this juncture of the meeting, Cllr. O'Rourke gave his apologies and left the meeting.

- Surfacing works - a number of roads throughout the district.
- Request for ramps in Bridgemeadows.
- Request for Pedestrian Crossing on Templeshannon Quay.
- Additional funding under Active Travel.
- Request for car park at St. Aidan's School to be re-opened.

The Executive Engineer responded to all issues raised.

4. Amendments to Pay Parking Bye-Laws.

The Executive Engineer updated the Members on proposed amendments to the Enniscorthy Pay Parking Bye-Laws. On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan it was unanimously agreed to proceed with amendments, as presented.

5. Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.

Cllr. Byrne asked if a report could be facilitated through the Special Projects Department for the April Meeting of this Committee.

6. Water Services.

Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer updated the Members on the contents of the Water Report circulated prior to the meeting. Mr. Shaw stated that he was delighted to be working in Enniscorthy and looked forward to working with the Elected Members. Mr. Shaw extended best wishes to Mr. Tadhg O'Corcora on his recent retirement.

The Members put forward a number of questions to Mr. Shaw including the provision of drinking water on Vinegar Hill and the completion date for upgrade of water works in Carrigduff. Mr. Shaw responded to all queries raised.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan the Members agreed to suspend the Standing Orders for 5 minutes to allow the meeting to proceed.

7. Vinegar Hill.

The District Manager circulated a programme of works for a number of short-term measures at Vinegar Hill. The Members welcomed the report and asked if possible can recommended works be complete before 21st June, 2023 as this is the 225th anniversary of 1798. The need for an Interpretation Centre was highlighted and the Director of Services was asked if senior management can look at this provision. The Director of Services stated that it is the ambition to develop the hill further, however, the issue of access needs to be overcome.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Codd-Nolan it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the Vinegar Hill Programme of Works as presented by the District Manager.

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

None.

9. Correspondence.

None.

10. Any Other Business.

None.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

____ Aidan Browne _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

____ **17-04-2023** _____
DATE