

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF  
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE  
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY,  
16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER at 9.30 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

<b>Councillors:</b>	John O'Rourke (Cathaoirleach) Jackser Owens (Leas-Cathaoirleach) Kathleen Codd-Nolan Aidan Browne Cathal Byrne Barbara-Anne Murphy
<b>Officials:</b>	Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer Ms Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner Mr. Larry McHale, Project Engineer Ms. Edel Nolan, Staff Officer Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer Mr Rory O'Mahoney, Senior Executive Engineer Ms Lynda Leacy, A/Head of Finance.
<b>Apologies Officials:</b>	Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Service Mr. Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer

Cathaoirleach O Rourke proposed a minute's silence for the victims of the recent tragedies in Gaza, especially for Irish families who had lost loved ones. Cllr Murphy requested that this includes Israel.

Cathaoirleach O Rourke also extended best wishes and a speedy recovery to Sean Og O'Duil.

Congratulations were extended to Frank Corcoran of Slaney News on their 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**1.1 Minutes of the September Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr. Browne, seconded by Cllr. Murphy, the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

### **1.3 Matters Arising**

None.

Cathaoirleach O Rourke informed the attendees that he had received apologies from Director of Services Carolyn Godkin as she was unable to attend due to delayed flights and Mr Neville Shaw would not be in attendance due to a conflicting meeting with Irish Water.

Cllr Murphy asked if there will be someone in attendance in their place?  
Cllr Owens insisted that there should be someone in their place to answer questions.

District Manager Claire Lawless suggested that questions are sent into her and she would revert with answers on this occasion, however the members declined stating that that is not the point.

Cllr Murphy proposed that a letter is sent to the Chief Executive to request that replacements attend the Enniscorthy District meetings if someone cannot attend.  
Cllr Owens seconded this and stated in future that if no one is sent then the meeting should not proceed.

## **2. Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) 2024.**

A/Head of Finance Ms. Lynda Leacy outlined the Draft Budgetary Plan 2024 as circulated prior to this morning's meeting. The members were then invited to raise any queries they had which included:

- Clarification of the level of funding in the Amenity Grants.
- The allocation to the Shop Front Scheme in other districts.
- Reallocation of unspent funds during the year.
- Rates income clarity and breakdown of income from same.
- School Meals funding, to which schools is it provided.

Cllr Byrne proposed reallocating Civic Recognition funds if unspent, this was seconded by Cllr Codd Nolan.

Cathaoirleach O'Rourke asked the members if they were happy to adopt the draft Budgetary Plan 2024.

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Codd Nolan, the Draft Budgetary Plan 2023 was adopted by the council.

### **3. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:**

#### **3.1 Planning**

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.  
Ms Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner invited any questions the members had.

- The regulations with regards to Vape shops?
- Request to seek further clarification rather than deny/refuse planning for heights restrictions?
- Clarification on the regulations for planning with regards to Log Cabins?
- Development at field at Cherry Orchard Heights, any planning applications on this?

Ms Lennon answered all queries raised.

#### **3.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service**

##### **Community**

The Community Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

##### **Environment**

The Environment Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

The members raised numerous queries to include.

- Who is the new Community Warden for Enniscorthy District?
- Are Wexford County Council being proactive with regards to Halloween 2023?
- The delay on spending of €200k funding received under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (O.R.I.S.)
- Rehabilitation of pathways on Vinegar Hill.

Cllr Byrne proposed that all members contact the Chief Executive and request that he prioritise the provision of resources required to progress the project under the O.R.I.S. Grant in Enniscorthy. This was seconded by Cllr Murphy and she also requested that the issue of the code of practice for CCTV use be raised with him.

Cllr O'Rourke requested that Waste Collection Agencies are contacted and instructed to remove unused bins in a timelier manner than is currently happening. He also requested that Recycling Bins are placed in a location close to Drumgoold/Gimont Area.

Mr O'Mahoney, Senior Executive Engineer answered all queries and committed to writing to the all Waste Collection Agencies.

The meeting paused for tea break. 10.30am.

Meeting resumed at 10.44am.

Mr Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer joined the meeting at this point.

## **Libraries & Fire Service**

The Libraries and Fire Service Reports circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

### **2.3 Housing**

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

- Has any land been offered through the Expression of Interest call?
- Policy in place for Anti Social Behaviour in housing estates?
- Clarification on the building of houses in Bunclody by Approved Housing Bodies?
- Notification of houses been allocated on the Choice Based Letting system.
- The timeframe of allocation of houses in Ferns?
- Questioning why it takes 12 weeks for a housing application to be approved?

Ms Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer answered the members queries and undertook to revert to the Members with more information on some matters.

A discussion on the Choice Based Letting system took place and the members noted their disapproval of the system and that they felt it was not working to the benefit of the applicants.

### **2.4 Municipal District Report**

The Municipal District report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The Members raised the following queries: -

- Congratulate the Tidy Towns members in the district on their success in the recent competition.
- Request that the new disability bicycles are advertised and promoted.
- The availability of alternative site for the Sensory Garden at HSE site?
- Clarification on the dates of the Rock N Food Festival for 2024?
- Update on the delivery of the Heritage Panels for Vinegar Hill?
- Request for WIFI to be included in the Public Pay Phone upgrade in Bunclody.

Cllr Murphy proposed that the Heritage panels be expedited and also to hold an Appreciation Evening with guest speakers for the members of the various Tidy Town Committees in the District to thank them for their hard work. Cllr Byrne seconded this.

The members discussed the Rock N Food Festival and the Fleadh Ceoil conflicting dates and suggestions were made to meet with both committees to ensure Enniscorthy benefitted from both Festivals.

District Manager, Ms. Lawless responded to all queries raised and undertook to request that the Heritage Officer attend the next meeting in November.

### **3. Roads Report.**

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

The Members raised a number of issues to which Mr. Dempsey, Executive Engineer responded:-

- Request to include roads at Stump lane Ferns, Wilton Bree and Abbeydown Bunclody in next year's resurfacing budget.
- Clarification on the safety measures proposed for Castledockerel Village?
- Update from Uisce Eireann on works completion date on road at Ballyorriil?
- Request for wall to be removed at footpath near Mace Service Station.
- Drainage on the Gurteen/Graiguebeg road in Bunclody update?
- Resurfacing of Drumgoold Road.
- Request for stop sign to be moved to allow for sight lines at bottom of St Aidan's road.
- Line marking required throughout the town.

Mr Dempsey undertook to look at all road's request in next years budget. He also committed to moving the sign at St Adians. Mr Dempsey informed the members that there is now a new Foreman in the Bunclody District and wished the out going Foreman Mr Tobin well in his new role. Mr Dempsey committed to continuing the ongoing sweeping and cleaning of drains both in the town and also in the countryside.

### **4. Flood Defence Scheme Report/Update.**

The Flood Defence Scheme Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. A discussion on the proposed works and the time frame of the project took place. Mr McHale, Project Engineer responded to all queries raised by the members.

### **5. Special Projects.**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted all queries raised. Cllr Murphy noted that it was disappointing that there was no representative in attendance to answer members queries.

Cllr Murphy raised the following queries:

- Location of proposed Advance Factory?
- What are the plans to fill Senan House in the Tech Park?
- What are the plans with regard to building houses in Enniscorthy Municipal District?
- Are Wexford County Council going to purchase land that has been offered in Expressions of Interest?

District Manager Ms Claire Lawless undertook to bring these queries to Special Projects for a reply.

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

None

**7. Correspondence.**

None

**8. Any Other Business.**

Cllr Owens raised the issue of sewerage entering onto the Pitch N Putt course with Senior Executive Engineer Mr Neville Shaw. Mr Shaw informed Cllr Owens that he was going to visit the site that afternoon to ascertain if it was a Council issue or an Uisce Eireann issue.

Cllr Murphy questioned as to who was responsible for the Ukrainian response in Wexford County Council? District Manager Ms Claire Lawless undertook to revert to Cllr Murphy with names and contact details.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 11.46am.

John O Rourke  
CATHAOIRLEACH

20<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
DATE