

Minutes of Meeting of the Members of Enniscorthy Municipal District
Held in the Council Chamber, The Presentation Centre, Enniscorthy
on Wednesday, 16th July 2014 at 6.30pm

Attendance: Councillors: Barbara Ann Murphy (Cathaoirleach)

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

Officials: Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services
Mr. David Minogue, District Administrator / Meetings Administrator
Mr. Rory O'Mahony, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Joanne Kehoe, Executive Engineer
Marie Butler, Clerical Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 On the proposal of Cllr. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 12th June, 2014 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

1.2 Matters Arising:

Cllr. Doyle queried why Reports submitted at this meeting had not been circulated with the Agenda. In reply the Director stated that a monthly report template for each of the Municipal district meetings was under review and he expected that the September 2014 Monthly Report would follow such format and would be circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr. Doyle raised concerns that Councillors were not informed of upcoming events (for example a change in date of the forthcoming All-Ireland Farmer's Market) and that there was a lack of communication.

The Director agreed that good communication was essential and Members needed to know in advance of events happening. It was agreed that the District Administrator would use email to keep the Members updated, in addition to reporting on events at the Monthly Meeting

Cllr. O'Rourke raised concerns about not being able to contact staff Members on a Saturday with regard to emergencies/burst water mains etc. The Director stated that the Council does not provide a service where staff Members take a call on a Saturday night, and that there were emergency numbers available. The Director undertook to request the County Secretary to provide the Members with details of emergency contact numbers.

Cllrs. Codd Nolan and Walsh enquired if it was envisaged that officials of the Housing and Planning Departments would attend Municipal District meetings to respond to queries from the Members. The Director advised he was not in a position to give commitment to their request but he would discuss at Management level, pointing out that the nature of such enquiries was not always compatible with the attendance of the Press at meetings of the Municipal District.

The Town Clerk reminded the Members that the usual facility for any member to contact officials of the Council to discuss particular issues remains in place.

Following discussion, and on the proposal of Cllr. Browne, seconded by Cllr. Kavanagh the Council agreed to hold "in committee" monthly meetings with the planning/housing officials as required.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1 Monthly Report

The District Administrator gave a detailed report to the Members as follows:

2.1.1 Standing Orders

The District Administrator informed Members that the Council's Standing Orders had been revised to reflect the changes as agreed at the Council's last meeting and he circulated copies of same to the Members.

2.1.2 Finance

The District Administrator provided the Members with details of budget provisions as set out in the 2014 Budget of Enniscorthy Town Council in relation to such items as lease of car parks, festivals and events, parks and environment and tourism / community.

2.1.3 Parks and Recreation

The District Administrator updated the Members in relation to routine works in this area

The Members expressed disappointment at the quality of grass cutting in some areas, suggesting that the usual collection of cut grass was intermittent.

Members asked that consideration be given to ways of increasing public responsibility and “ownership” in relation to the MUGA in Cluain Dara. Cllr. Doyle advised he has asked local parents in the area to get other parents involved in the project and to revert back to the Municipal District.

2.1.4 Orchard Park

The District Administrator informed Members that preliminary works had commenced at the Orchard Park. The agreed boundary wall to the north of the site was under construction and the opening had been made in the southern boundary of the Presentation Garden to link it with the new park area.

In response to a query from Cllr. O'Rourke, the Senior Executive Engineer advised the Members that it was his intention to remove as few trees as possible during the development of the park

2.1.5 Slaney Trail / Country Walk

The District Administrator informed Members that tender documents had been finalized to improve the section of walkway that leads from St. John's Road (N1) down to the Country Walk.

Tenders had been received for construction of the section of Slaney Trail that leads from Brownswood to Edermine and the Council awaited the approval of Parks and Wildlife to the proposed works as a portion of the trail lies within a Special Area of Conservation

2.1.6 Vinegar Hill Improvements

The District Administrator informed Members that the project was progressing well and it was expected that all works would be completed in time for the annual Re-enactment of the Battle of Vinegar Hill.

2.1.7 Enniscorthy Sports Hub

The District Administrator informed Members that the Council would issue a Certificate of Practical Completion within the next week, marking the completion of works, and the Council's solicitors had been requested to expedite the formation of the legal entity “Enniscorthy Sports Hub”

He further informed Members that the Management Committee had met on a number of occasions and was almost ready to present management proposals to the Board for consideration. These proposals will include draft schedule of charges, draft memo and articles of association, suggested hours of operation, suggested staffing arrangements and draft Budget.

Cllr. Doyle stated that he wished to see the Chairperson of the Municipal District open the new Sports Hub. The Director advised that in accordance with normal protocol, the Minister would be asked to officiate at the event, while the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy would also have a prominent role on the day. The District Administrator advised the Members that Minister Ring had apologised for his ability to perform the official opening and had advised that Minister Paul Kehoe would act on his behalf.

The Members were then invited to suggest a date, ideally in September, for the official opening of the facility.

It was agreed that the District Administrator would liaise with the Cathaoirleach in relation to the selection of a date for the Official Opening.

2.1.8 Public Art

The District Administrator informed Members that the Council had arranged for repairs to the “Salmon” at Ross Road Roundabout and in the interest of its protection, propose to move it to within the roundabout itself.

The “Cherries” currently located within the boundary of Enniscorthy Sports Hub will be moved, most likely to one of the green areas of the adjacent housing estates.

2.1.9 Nomination to Groups and Committees

The District Administrator informed Members that he had been advised by the County Secretary that the Members of Enniscorthy Municipal District are to nominate a Member to the Corporate Policy Group of Wexford County Council, and he proposed to place this matter on the agenda for the September meeting of the Members, in accordance with Standing Orders.

A number of appointments to other bodies are currently vacant following the dissolution of Enniscorthy Town Council and these will be advised to the County Secretary for nomination by Wexford County Council at the earliest date.

2.1.10 All-Ireland Farmers Market & Riverside Jump Festival

The District Administrator updated the Members in relation to the Festival which will take place over the forthcoming weekend of 18th to 20th July, 2014.

Cllrs. Doyle and Browne raised concerns with regard to the quality of goods on sale at this year's Strawberry Fair and asked if the Casual Trading Bye-Laws could be brought to the Members at the September meeting for review.

It was proposed by Cllr. Doyle that in view of Council financial support to various festivals, the respective festival committees would update the Council in relation to the details of the festival, before the actual event took place.

Following discussion, it was agreed that festivals awarded funding in excess of €5,000 would brief the Council at least one month before the event.

2.1.11 William Barker Memorial Plaque

The District Administrator informed Members that his Excellency the French Ambassador to Ireland had expressed a willingness to unveil a plaque on William Barker Bridge as part of the festivities surrounding the Annual Re-enactment of the Battle of Vinegar Hill.

The Members indicated their board support for the proposal, and were advised by the Director that the design will fully take into account the protected structure status of the Bridge

Cllr. Doyle asked that the assistance of the Ambassador be sought in securing representatives of the French Defence Forces to take part in the forthcoming Enniscorthy 2016 celebrations

2.1.12 Other

MUGA – Ross Road:

Cllr. O'Rourke enquired as to the status of plans to have a MUGA installed at Ross Road. The Town Clerk advised that there was no immediate plans as the money earmarked for this project had, with the agreement of the Members of Enniscorthy Town Council, been used to help fund Enniscorthy Sports Hub

Repairs to Playgrounds

Cllr. Mythen asked that immediate repairs be carried out to damaged equipment in local authority owned playgrounds in the area.

The Senior Executive Engineer advised that due to the volume and specialist nature of the works required, a tender document had been prepared and tenders would be invited from suitable contractor in the coming weeks.

Discretionary Funding:

Cllr. Doyle enquired about discretionary funding for the Municipal District. The Director stated that the budgetary process for 2015 had commenced and work was underway to help inform the overall process, such as collection of information regarding the level of funding made available under the various divisions by the Town Councils in previous years and expected levels of income.

CCTV:

In response to a query from Cllr. Kavanagh, the District Administrator informed Members that works on the CCTV are being carried out in two phases.

Phase 1 consists of the replacement of the computer which operates the current system and the upgrading of the associated software and has recently been completed

Phase 2 will see the provision of additional cameras at Drumgold and Enniscorthy ports Hub, together with the repair of existing cameras and transmitters. Phase 2 also includes proposals to provide monitoring equipment at Enniscorthy Garda Station.

Members were also informed that there was no plan to put cameras in Church Street at this time.

At this juncture, Cllr. O'Rourke left the meeting.

2.2 Roads and Water Engineering Reports:

The Roads and water engineering reports as circulated were duly noted by the Members.

2.2.1 Matters for consideration / attention

The following matters were raised for by the members for consideration and attention:

- Repairs required at roadway – Special needs school at Pearse Road.
- Footpaths – back of grotto.
- Ramps required in Church Street.
- Ditch at Gort na Silini – Walkway to Lidl/Aldi.
- Footpaths – Rectory Road.
- Potholes – Slaney View Park/Carley's Bridge.
- Hempfield Close/Turret Rocks.
- Footpath – Oilgate.
- Survey of signs in the District – some need to be cleaned/removed.
- GAA grounds in Ballymurn – residents looking for signs.
- Treatment Plant Blackwater – remove sign.
- Beechfield in the Ballagh – Pothole to be repaired.
- Kyle Meadons in Oulart – Residents are looking for estate to be taken in charge.
- Marshalstown – Consider signs to slow traffic at housing estates.
- Signage for car parks throughout the town.

2.2.2 Enniscorthy Main Drainage Scheme:

Members raised concerns with regard to the delay in progressing the next phase of the Enniscorthy Main Drainage Scheme and expressed fears that failure to expand existing capacity at Enniscorthy Treatment Works would impact negatively on the ability of Enniscorthy Town to develop and expand.

The Director further stated that Irish Water were reviewing the Main Drainage Scheme but may not plan to extend it at this time and while Wexford County Council would vigorously pursue the expansion of the Scheme, the ultimate decision would be made by Irish Water.

Following discussion, it was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Browne it was agreed that the District Administrator would write to Irish Water and the Minister for the Environment seeking a deputation to pursue the case to expand the Scheme.

3. Section 183 Local Government Act, 2001.

Proposed disposal of lands at Ballinavocran, Bunclody.

The Members considered the Notice of proposed disposal as circulated. On the proposal of Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Keith Doyle, the Member agreed to recommend the proposal disposal to the full Council in accordance with the terms as contained in the Notice.

4. Request for Deputation – Peare Construction Ltd.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson would meet with Peare Construction to discuss Mr. Peare’s plans for Peare Campus Enniscorthy

5. Correspondence – None noted

6. Any Other Business:

6.1 Archaeological Reports – Vinegar Hill:

Cllr. Mythen asked if and when an archaeological report would be available on Vinegar Hill. The Director stated that the work had only started on same and that it was early days yet in the report but that a primary study had been carried out heretofore and he would arrange for a copy to be sent to him.

6.2 Polocrosse Tournament:

The Town Clerk informed Members that a Polocrosse tournament would be taking place in the town over the August Bank Holiday weekend as part of the Re-Enactment Festival and the new Municipal District had been invited to sponsor a Perpetual Trophy. Following discussion it was agreed by all Members to call the trophy the “Pat Cody” Perpetual Trophy.

New Director of Services:

Tony Larkin, Director of Services informed Members that a new Director of Service would be taking up duty next Monday, 21st July and that this was his last meeting in Enniscorthy. Mr. Larkin thanked all Members for their help and co-operation to him over the past 8 years and stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time working in Enniscorthy.

All Members and the Town Clerk then paid tribute to Tony for all his work throughout the years, for his true professionalism to the job and wished him well in his new position as Director in the Wexford Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN

DATE