

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 9th September 2020 at 2.30pm in St. Michael's Theatre,
New Ross.**

Presiding: Councillor Michael Whelan

In Attendance: Councillor Brídín Murphy
Councillor Anthony Connick
Councillor John Fleming
Councillor Michael Sheehan
Councillor Pat Barden

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Administrator
Eamonn Hore - District Director
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer
David Murphy – Assistant Engineer
Fintan Ryan, Executive Engineer
Liz Hore, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development
Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer, Housing
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner
Michael Sweeney – Senior Staff Officer, Community
Gerry Forde – Senior Executive Engineer, Environment
Capt. Phil Murphy, Marine Officer
Capt. Michael Mahon, Marine Officer
Sharon Ryan – Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies:

No apologies were received for the meeting.

Holding of Council Meetings

At the start of the meeting the District Manager read into the record the advice that was received from the LGMA regarding the holding of council meetings.

“Having reviewed the Government announcement we are satisfied that references to mass gatherings and events does not encompass Council meetings having regard to their statutory and business function, however local authorities should continue to ensure appropriate COVID-19 protective and public health measures are in place for Council meetings such as physical distancing between people.”

The meeting is taking place in compliance with these guidelines.

Location of Meeting

The District Manager read into the record Section 6 of the Standing Orders for New Ross Municipal District;

Place of Meeting and Address of Principal Offices

- 6.** *In so far as practicable the place for holding meetings of the municipal district members shall be The Tholsel, Quay St, New Ross and meetings shall normally be held there, provided that the municipal district members may from time to time by resolution appoint an alternative location for a particular meeting.*

The change of venue to St. Michael's Theatre was proposed by Councillor Fleming and seconded by Councillor Connick. All members were in agreement.

Presentations

Standing Orders were suspended to allow for four presentations. This was proposed by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Councillor Fleming.

Presentation 1: Fintan Ryan, Special Projects Team gave an update regarding the High Hill project on which works are due to commence in January, 2021. Fintan answered questions from the Members

Presentation 2: Michael Sweeney, Community gave a presentation on the main features of the draft burial bye-laws. Members questions were answered.

Presentation 3: Liz Hore, Economic Development gave a presentation on Covid 19 economic measures and answered questions from the Members.

Presentation 4: Mary Lou O'Kennedy, Connie Tantrum and Gene O'Sullivan from Ros Tapestry gave a presentation to inform the Members that Ros Tapestry would temporarily be moving to Kilkenny Castle at the end of September/start of October. They reassured the Members that the tapestry would return to New Ross and be put on display in the Murphy building once it is finished; this will be its permanent home.

Expressions of Sympathy

The Members expressed their sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased:

The family of former Chairperson, Jimmy Curtis,

The family of Martin Shalloe, former General Services Supervisor, New Ross.

The family of James Lee.

The family of Kathleen Power.

The family of Billy Howlett.

The family of John Ryan.

The family of Jim Gaffney.

The family of Larry Dunne.

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to James Browne, T.D. on his new appointment as Minister of State for Justice.

The Members welcomed the funding for bike racks, disability access and funding for the Wellingtonbridge road crossing.

The Members congratulated all the leaving cert students and wished them the best of luck with the CAO offers on Friday.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting - Wednesday 8th July at 2.30pm in County Hall.

The Minutes were adopted as presented, proposed by Councillor Fleming and seconded by Councillor Barden.

1.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of July meeting.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1. District Manager's Report

The District Manager welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Assistant Staff Officer, Sharon Ryan. He delivered his report and responded to queries raised by the councillors.

The trial pedestrianisation of South Street from the top of Charles Street to the old cinema is now complete and is regarded as a success by Wexford County Council and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Kickstart New Ross committee has now been disbanded as it has achieved what it set out to do. The District Manager thanked the members of the committee and acknowledged all of the work that was done by the members.

An application for the shopfront assistance scheme for the rural villages and hinterlands within the District is currently with the Dept of Rural and Community Development.

New Ross Municipal District is a finalist in the Special Initiative category of the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Awards. The District Manager thanked Ger Walsh, Staff Officer for all of her hard work on this project.

4 out of the 5 commissioned New Ross Walls have been completed. The arrival of the final artist from Holland is delayed as there are quarantine requirements.

News is awaited regarding the phase 2 application for the Shopfront Assistance Scheme which would fund businesses in the rural villages and hinterlands within the district.

The Summer Sessions which were a great success are continuing in the theatre. It is hoped that bigger events will take place during Halloween and Christmas, subject to regulations.

A meeting will take shortly with the Special Project Teams in relation to the new playground at Pearse Park. The Members requested that Special Projects be invited to the next meeting to give an update on the project.

The Members noted the new illegal dumping signs which will be placed at litter blackspots throughout the district.

Congratulations were extended to Fethard Development Association who have completed works under their Town and Village Renewal scheme and have applied for further funding under this year's scheme.

Funding of €4,500 has been awarded to the NRMD under the Creative Ireland Jobs stimulus package through the library services section. Artistic options are currently being explored for one of the villages in the district.

The next phase of the Norman Way signage commenced in the last few weeks with a number of signs being erected around the Hook Peninsula.

2.2. Roads Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members. The Roads Engineer responded to queries and comments from the Members.

The Road's Engineer introduced David Murphy to the Members. David will temporarily replace Eilis Furlong as Road's Engineer during Eilis' maternity leave. The Members and the Director wished Eilis well.

2.3. Water Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members. The Senior Executive Engineer responded to Members' queries.

2.4. Housing Report.

The content of the report was noted. The Administrative Officer, Housing answered queries from the Councillors.

The Administrative Officer advised the Members that the housing needs assessments are currently underway with a closing date of 11/9.

It was agreed that the Administrative Officer will provide a list of vacant houses in New Ross for the next meeting.

2.5 Planning Report

The content of the report was noted and the Executive Planner responded to the Members' questions.

2.6 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.7 Community Development Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.8 Environment Report

Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer and Capt. Phil Murphy, Marine Officer introduced Capt. Michael Mahon the recently Marine Officer in New Ross. They presented an update on the New Ross Port and answered questions from the Members.

2.9 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.10 Members Query System - NRMD

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

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

3.1 Taking in charge – Barrett's Park Estate

The taking in charge of Barrett's Park Estate was passed by resolution of the Members, proposed by Councillor Connick and seconded by Councillor Fleming.

Councillor Sheehan proposed that Tom Banville, SEO, Planning be invited to the October meeting to discuss how to address the issue of older estates in the district which had never been taken in charge.

3.2 Presentation on Draft Burial Bye Laws for Wexford County Council Burial grounds.

This presentation was given at the start of the meeting.

3.3 Draft Intoxicating Liquor Bye Laws 2020

This was proposed by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Councillor Murphy.

4. Other Business (presentations taken at start of meeting)

4.1 *Presentation on Covid 19 Measures Economic Dept – Liz Hore, Economic Development*

4.2 *Presentation on High Hill Project (update) – Fintan Ryan, Special Projects*

5. Notices of Motion

N/A.

6. Correspondence

The Members noted the correspondence from New Ross Ramblers Hillwalking and Hiking Club and the Celtic Routes Newsletter, Summer 2020.

7. AOB

Councillor Sheehan proposed that a costing be done for temporary CCTV cameras at St. Stephen's Cemetery and that this would be discussed at the next meeting of the St. Stephen's Cemetery Committee meeting.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____

Cathaoirleach

Date _____