

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 8th July 2020 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, County
Hall, Wexford**

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 (via Teams)
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer (Via Teams)
Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer, Housing
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner
Niall McCabe – SEO Housing (via Teams)
Eimear Kennedy – Staff Officer

Martin Collins, Pavee Point
Emily Murtagh, Irish Traveller Movement

Apologies: N/A

At the start of the 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 County Hall was proposed by Councillor Connick and seconded by Councillor Fleming. All members were in agreement.

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

Presentation 1: Martin Collins, Pavee Point and Emily Murtagh, Irish Traveller Movement, were in attendance via Teams to speak with the members. They answered questions from the Members

Presentation 2; Sinead Casey, Special Projects Team, advised the Members of two upcoming projects in New Ross. The removal of the oil tanks from the quay and the proposal for the construction of a motor home park on Council lands near Lidl in New Ross.

Condolences

Sympathies were extended to the Cleary family, New Ross and to former District Roads Engineer Abraham Dunne and his family on the passing of his father.

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Aidan O'Brien on his 8th Derby win.

At the start of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach proposed that the next monthly meeting take place in the New Ross District (venue TBC dependent on social distancing) with all administration and Members in situ. This was seconded by Councillor Sheehan.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting - Thursday 11th June at 2.30pm in County Hall.

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

1.2 Minutes of AGM – Monday 29th June at 9.30 a.m. in County Hall.

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

1.3 Minutes of Kick Start New Ross Meetings – each at 10.00 am in the Tholsel and via Teams:

- ***17th June***
- ***25th June***
- ***2nd July***

The Minutes were adopted as presented, proposed by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Councillor Connick.

1.4 Minutes of St. Stephen's Cemetery Committee meeting 2nd July, 12.00 noon in the Tholsel and via Teams

The Minutes were adopted as presented, proposed by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Councillor Connick.

1.5 Matters Arising

N/A.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1. District Manager's Report

The District Manager delivered his report and responded to queries raised by the councillors.

In updating the members on the pedestrianisation of New Ross for a trial period post-Covid19, he advised that the outcome of the second survey from the County Wexford Chamber had established that the South Street from the top of Charles Street to the old cinema is the preferred location among the traders for pedestrianisation with a 74% majority. This was proposed by Councillor Whelan and seconded by Councillor Sheehan.

The District Manager invited the members to the official launch of the Summer Sessions series of events on Wednesday 15th July at 7.00pm in Library Park.

In response to the District Manager's advice that the Shop Front scheme is now oversubscribed, the Members requested an extension to the scheme. The decision was made to wait until after the closing date (29th July) to ascertain the length of the waiting list to see if it would be possible to source additional funds.

In response to the District Manager's announcement of funding for a destination playground to be located in Pearse Park, there were calls from the Members to invite the SEO, Community to the next meeting to speak to the Members about the nature of consultation with the young people of New Ross, in order to ensure the park is designed with young people's needs in mind. The District Manager reminded the Members that the playground is aimed at younger children and families.

Councillor Murphy brought a suggestion from St. Michael's Theatre about utilising empty window spaces in the buildings along South Street as exhibition space, to help bring life back to the town.

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.

In response to a query from the Members, the District Engineer advised she will look into the placement of a bus shelter at the Good Counsel.

2.3. Water Services Report

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

Responding to Councillor Fleming, the Senior Executive Engineer advised that he will speak to Irish Water about pesticide levels in the drinking water in Clonroche. He reassured the members that the levels are very low and that there is no risk to public health but he will ask Irish Water for an official response.

2.4. Housing Report.

The content of the report was noted. The Administrative Officer, Housing was present to answer queries from the Councillors.

The Administrative Officer advised the Members that they are back allocating houses and keys but do not have a date for the return to regular clinics.

The Cathaoirleach requested an update on the taking in charge of three estates – Corrderaun Close, Cois Na Mara and Hillview, 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

Brendan Cooney, Senior Executive Scientist, Environment, was in attendance to answer Members' queries.

He advised the Members, that if there are queries in relation to Septic Tank Grants or issues, to contact the Senior Staff Officer or Senior Executive Scientist, Environment.

2.9 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members. The Members requested that Minister Daire O'Brien to a District Meeting at his earliest convenience.

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

N/A.

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

- 4.1 *Meeting with representatives of Pavee Point and the Irish Traveller Movement.*
- 4.2 *Sinead Casey of the Special Projects Team*

5. Notices of Motion

N/A.

6. Correspondence

7. AOB

There was a request from the Members to look at fencing on Auburn Avenue. The District Manager will look into it before the next meeting.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____