

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 13th January 2021 in the Tholsel, New Ross**

Presiding: Councillor Michael Whelan

In Attendance: Councillor John Fleming (Via Teams)
Councillor Anthony Connick (Via Teams)
Councillor Michael Sheehan (Via Teams)
Councillor Pat Barden (Via Teams)
Councillor Bridin Murphy (Via Teams)

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director (Via Teams)
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer (Via Teams)
David Murphy – A/Executive Engineer (Via Teams)
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing (Via Teams)
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner (Via Teams)
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer (Via Teams)
David Lee – Clerical Officer
Sharon Ryan – Asst Staff Officer (Via Teams)
Brendan Cooney – Senior Executive Scientist (Via Teams)

Others Present: Deputy Verona Murphy
David Looby New Ross Standard

Sympathies

Sympathies were extended by Cllr Whelan to the family of Nell Aspel, Terrerath, by Cllr Barden to Maurice Duggan on the death of Lucille, by Cllr Sheehan to the Kavanagh/MacLennan families on the death of John MacLennan, by Cllr Murphy to the family of Mary Anne O' Brien, Ballymackessy and to the family of Barry O' Rourke, Rathnure. Cllr Fleming extended sympathies to the family of Christy O Connell, Caim/Rathnure and also suggested writing to a relevant group offering sympathies in relation to the findings of the Commission into Investigation of the Mother and Baby Homes.

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended by Cllr Whelan to James Kehoe from the Boley Tug of War Club on his nomination for the World Games, Greatest Athlete of all time award. Cllr Barden congratulated the Blood Bikes Southeast group who have been accommodated with office and storage space by Andrew Breen and he thanked Breen Transport for their generosity and Deputy Verona Murphy for her assistance in arranging the accommodation. Cllr Barden also suggested that in the future, the Blood Bikes group could be considered for the sharing of the old fire station with the ambulance service. Cllr Sheehan congratulated Liam Rossiter who was a recipient of

one of the awards in the 2020 Federation of Irish Sport, 'Volunteers in Sport' Awards for his Trojan work with New Ross Town. He also suggested that as well as the Blood Bikes, that Bumbleance could be accommodated at the old fire station. Cllr Murphy congratulated Jonathan Moore on his Grade 1 success at the Christmas Hurdle at the Leopardstown Festival and remarked that Jonathan was the 6th Good Counsel College past pupil to win a Grade 1 race and also congratulated Rathnure's 'Run the Parish' fundraiser at the October Bank Holiday weekend which raised €23,000 for the Oncology Department of Wexford General Hospital.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting – 9th December 2020

The December 2020 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Connick.

Matters Arising

N/A

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1. District Manager's Report

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

He proposed and the Members agreed, to defer the allocation of the festivals budget of €100,000 for a few months, in light of the impact of Covid on events and festivals

The District Manager then informed the Members that the 2021 Arts and Amenity and Residents Association Grants would be open for applications from 19th January to 12th February and he outlined a summary of the schemes

He congratulated all those who were successful in receiving funding through the Town and Village scheme, particularly those who had previously been in New Ross Municipal District and reminded the Members of the previous successful funding in the district. He advised the Members that an application would be submitted this year for Brennans Lane and that all groups were encouraged to apply for funding and would be given support with their applications.

The District Director outlined a list of funding which the district had received over the last number of years and commented that New Ross was 'punching well above its weight' with its success.

The District Manager hoped that the New Years arrow 'Claiming the Estuary' ceremony which had to be deferred due to Covid 19, would take place later in the year.

He advised that the Christmas 2020 campaign was very successful despite the challenges faced due to the pandemic, and he thanked all those involved,

The Director informed the members in relation to the Courthouse, that there was a 250 year lease but that if the Council was considering acquiring it, that the lease should be bought out. He also complimented the work of the outdoor staff during the recent ice and snow,

The Director advised that the removal of the oil tanks was delayed due to Covid but otherwise would be proceeding as planned.

2.2. Roads Report

The Roads Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members.

He was complimented by the Members on his efficient responses and on works at Dunmain, Ballycullane, Mountelliot and Ballywilliam.

Responding to queries from the Members, he advised that 19 Disabled Parking Bays are to be upgraded. That he will upgrade the LIS as soon as possible. That he will review and update any issues on mapalarter and will have the Roads programme update in the next month or so.

He advised that strengthening is due to take place in April/May and also that he would look at issues with street lighting and signage and footpath accessibility.

The Director complimented the Roads staff on their essential working during the current crisis and he advised the Members that surface dressing is not deemed essential at the moment due to the restrictions.

2.3. Water Services Report

The Senior Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members.

2.4. Housing Report.

The Housing report was delivered by the Administrative Officer, Housing who responded to queries from the Members. It was agreed following a request by the Chairman at the December meeting, that the Halting Site Caretaker would attend the February meeting – either in person, or remotely, to be agreed by the District Manager and AO Housing.

The Members requested that local arrangements be looked at in relation to those presenting homeless and that the position re houses on Michael St would be clarified. The AO confirmed that there will be no apartments in Rosbercon and that

the consultants may be able to provide preliminary drawings before the February meeting.

2.5 Planning Report

The Executive Planner delivered his report and answered questions from the Members.

2.6 Planning Grants

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.7 Planning Refusals

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.8 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

There was no report for January.

2.9 Community Development Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.10 Environment Report

The Environment report was dealt with earlier in the meeting as Brendan Cooney was on route to the scene of a sunken trawler in Duncannon. The report was given and he responded to questions from the Members.

2.11 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members. Clarification was requested by the Members as to whether the new Fire station works are on schedule. The Director confirmed that contracts had been signed but that there were delays due to Covid.

2.12 Members Query System - NRMD

The content of the report was noted by the Members. The Members had issues with the Members report and also with the phone system and requested that a representative from that Department, come to a meeting of the Municipal District in order to discuss the issues.

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

It was proposed to insert Standing Orders (6(a) to 6(h)) into the New Ross Municipal District Standing Orders (adopted 14th June 2019) to allow for remote meetings of the Local Authority and its sub-committees in light of the designation of the Local Authority in the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020 (S.I. No. 445 of 2020). For the avoidance of doubt, these Standing Orders 6(a) to 6(h) also regulate meetings where some members may attend physically while other elected members may attend remotely.

Following discussions and the suggestion of revisiting it in July under a Sunset clause, the insertion of the above Standing Orders, was proposed by Cllr Michael Whelan and Seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan.

A request was made that any visitors to the meeting be named before the meeting commences.

4.0 Other Business

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

7.0 AOB

It was requested that Brian Kehoe from WLD be invited to the February meeting.

It was requested that the Garda Superintendent be invited to a meeting of New Ross Municipal District.

Cllr Barden congratulated Deputy Murphy on her work in relation to Rosslare Ferryport.

Cllr Sheehan mentioned that Wexford Local Development & Sports Active Wexford would host a Sports Capital Programme Guidance workshop on the evening of Wednesday, January 20th

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____