

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 in the Tholsel, Quay St., New Ross**

Presiding: Councillor Michael Sheehan

In Attendance: Councillor John Fleming
Councillor Anthony Connick
Councillor Michael Whelan
Councillor Pat Barden
Cllr Bridin Murphy

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Manager
Eamonn Hore - District Director
David Murphy – Acting Executive Engineer
Alan Fitzhenry – AO
Martina Donoghue – AO Housing (Teams)
Ger Walsh – Staff Officer
Melissa Goff – SSO Environment
Fionnuala Callery – A/Senior Engineer
Yvonne Kelly – SSO Water Services

Others Present: David Looby New Ross Standard
Ann Lacey PPN

Apologies Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer

The Cathaoirleach wished all attending a happy New Year, and welcomed Alan Fitzhenry to New Ross.

Standing orders were suspended to allow a presentation on the Lead remediation grant from Rural Water Section.

This was proposed by Cllr Murphy and Seconded by Cllr Fleming.

The presentation was given by Yvonne Kelly SSO and Fionnuala Callery SEE Water Services and following the presentation, they responded to questions from the Members.

The Members were advised that the grant would be advertised on the WCC website and in the library.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the presenters for their attendance and presentation.

Sympathies

Cllr Sheehan, Cllr Connick and Cllr Whelan, offered sympathies to the family of Richard Tobin, Duncannon, on his death.

Cllr Sheehan sympathised with the family of Jimmy Murphy, former painter with NRTC, the family of Michael Cashin, New Ross, the family of Billy Myers, former Revenue Collector WCC/NRTC and the family of Brian Dunphy, Southknock, New Ross.

Cllr Whelan sympathised with the family of Mai Whelan, Curraghmore, Saltmills. Cllr Connick sympathised with the family of Cllr Davy Daniels, Waterford.

A minute's silence was held for Michael Jones, Executive Engineer WCC

Congratulations

All the Members congratulated Nolan Transport on the opening of their new warehouse in Drinagh and Wexford GAA Park on their new lights.

Cllr Sheehan congratulated Derek Kent on his appointment as Leinster Council GAA Chairman and also congratulated all those involved in the arrow ceremony at Hook Head on 1st January.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting –

The December 2022 Minutes were proposed as presented by Councillor Fleming and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Barden and agreed by all that Cllr Fleming and Cllr Connick would represent the District at the St Patrick's Day parade in Hartford.

2.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1 District Managers Report

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

Proposed Festival Budget 2023

The Festivals 2023 programme, a €100k allocation through the GMA, was presented to the Members to decide for the forthcoming year. This was a significant investment by the Members in local Festivals in the Community which also act as significant attractions to the area and promote New Ross on the National and International stage. Acceptance of the programme was proposed by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Whelan and agreed by all.

Joint Meeting with Callan/Thomastown MD

It was proposed by Cllr Connick and seconded by Cllr Whelan and agreed by all the Members to have a meeting with the Members of the Callan/Thomastown MD in Thomastown on Wednesday, 8th February, 2023.

The second meeting would then be in New Ross in the second half of the year. It was also agreed to have a meeting with the Gardai on 8th February.

Duncannon Fort

The Members were advised that a Project Team was being put together to facilitate the reopening of the gates of Duncannon Fort through the recent grant award and start the process of unlocking the potential of the Fort and commence the process of creating a Regional Tourism attraction. And that the project brief would be put out to the Tender by the end of Jan for the creation of a Masterplan for the entire Duncannon Fort site.

Arrow Ceremony Hook Lighthouse

A very successful Arrow Ceremony was held down in the Hook on New Years Day where the Cathaoirleach Cllr M Sheehan cast an arrow off the Headland in the Hook claiming rights to the Estuary. He was accompanied by New Ross Municipal District Cllrs and the Dunbrody Archers.

New Ross Christmas 2022

The Members were advised that the New Ross Christmas programme was a great success and that the feedback from local businesses was that trade was very good over the Christmas period with high levels of footfall which is continuing into January for the sales.

Brennan's Lane/Shambles Town and Village

The District Manager advised the Members that work is continuing on the Brennan's Lane/Shambles Town and Village Project and that Avanti Architects have been appointed as Consultants. In relation to a query from the Cathaoirleach, the District Manager advised that while accommodation for a statue of Michael O Hanrahan would be made available, that funding had not become available yet for it.

CCTV

The Members were advised that the Data Protection Officer has signed off on the Scheme and it has been sent to Gardai and then will go to the Garda Commissioner for sanction.

Destination Towns

The District Manager advised that works are continuing on the Destination Towns Project and that a launch will take place in early 2023.

In relation to a query on the pedestrianisation of Quay St., the Members were advised that it is hoped to secure funding under the town and village scheme.

The Director agreed to revert back to the Members on dates for the opening of the Greenway and on further information on the camper van site.

The Members were advised by the Director that the Advance Factory developers had decided not to progress with the factory at the moment and he thanked the developers for their work to date. He assured the Members that while it was a setback, that he was confident that alternative developers would be sourced and that it would definitely stay on the agenda.

In relation to Docks hotel, the District Manager advised that he had made contact with the owner and that he was considering his options. He also advised that the former Sweeney's garden centre was to be opened by the summer.

The Cathaoirleach requested that a representative from Special Projects attend the February meeting.

2.2. Roads Report

The Roads Engineer delivered his report and responded to queries from the Members in relation to roadworks in Kinnagh, Ballycullane, Rosbercon and the Ballagh and he advised that the vacant foreman's position was being interviewed for.

2.3. Water Services Report

The Senior Executive Engineer was unavailable due to an emergency but his report was made available to the Members.

2.4. Housing Report.

The Housing report was delivered by the Administrative Officer, Housing who responded to queries from the Members.

She advised that letters had recently been sent out to Social Housing Supports applicants in relation to Choice Based Letting and new income thresholds. She responded to queries in relation to these letters.

The members requested a list of New Ross contractors who had expressed an interest in being included on the Medium Works Tender list. Concern was expressed regarding contractors having to provide information in duplicate when tendering for major construction works. The AO advised that Wexford County Council is constrained by Departmental guidelines, but that she would check this with Special Projects & revert.

The Members also expressed concern at the high level of refusals for the new Ard an Bhile development and queried the repercussions.

An update was requested by the Members on the planned housing scheme at Hewittsland, the house at Boderan & Marshmeadows Halting Site.

2.5 Planning Report

The Executive Planner sent her apologies but submitted her report for the Members.

The Members requested a list of the current applications for estates to be taken in charge.

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

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.9 Community Development Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.10 Environment Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members. The Members requested information on any planned mattress and paint amnesties and queried regarding the legislation for CCTV in relation to illegal dumping and also queried re coastal erosion in Grange.

2.11 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.12 Members Query System

The content of the report was noted by the Members

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

N/A

4.0 Other Business

4.1 Presentation by Yvonne Kelly and Fionnuala Callery on Lead remediation grant from Rural Water Section. (Presented earlier in the meeting)

5.0 Notice of Motion/s –

N/A

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Letter of thanks from New Ross FCA Pipe Band

7.0 AOB

The Members and the Director thanked Mick McCormack, outgoing District Manager, for his service to the District and recognised the work he had done in his time in New Ross and wished him well on his new appointment. Mick thanked all the Members, the Directors and Officials for their courtesy and support during his time in New Ross.

The incoming District Manager, Alan Fitzhenry, was welcomed by the members and the Director and was wished luck in the role.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____