

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on the 18th January 2021 at 10.30hrs in the Block A, Ground Floor Meeting
Room, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, and MS Teams (Remote).**

Presiding: Cllr Frank Staples – An Cathaoirleach

Officials Present: Nóirín Cummins – District Manager
Dean Waters – Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr Ger Carthy

Remote Attendance

Councillors: Cllr Lisa McDonald – Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr Jim Moore
Cllr Jim Codd

Officials: Annette O'Neill - District Director / Director of Services
Mark Collins – Executive Engineer (Roads)
Ken Jones – Executive Engineer (Water)
Michele Bridges Carley – Administrative Officer (Housing)
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner
George Colfer – Executive Engineer (Environment)
Paul L'Estrange – A/Senior Executive Officer (Community)

Cllr Frank Staples, An Cathaoirleach, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

He thanked Cllr Lisa McDonald, Leas-Cathaoirleach, for chairing the meetings during his absence.

The Chair noted the apologies of Cllr Ger Carthy, and commended the work he and other front line staff continued to do through the on-going Covid-19 crisis.

The Chair acknowledged the presence of Deputy Verona Murphy and thanked her for keeping Rosslare on the map in Dáil Éireann.

Cllr Lisa McDonald stated that, as a point of order, it was unfair to single out the Deputy in the public gallery by affording her special individual praise, considering there are 4 other Deputies working equally as hard representing Wexford in Dáil Éireann.

Cllr Frank Staples noted the comments of his fellow Councillor.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meeting – 14th December 2020

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of December 14th 2020, were proposed by Cllr Lisa McDonald, seconded by Cllr Jim Moore, and agreed by all present.

1.2 Matters Arising

None.

Congratulations

Cllr Jim Moore confirmed recent funding announcements in connection with successful District applications for the Town & Village Renewal 2020 and ORIS 2020 (*Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme*) and congratulated all those concerned. The Members unanimously agreed with the comments.

Cllr Lisa McDonald congratulated local groups/committee for their work on the walkways in Duncormick and Murrintown.

The Members further agreed that communities and volunteers working tirelessly through the pandemic to assist the vulnerable, and the elderly, should be acknowledged.

Sympathies

Sympathies were extended to the family of Noel Murphy, former Mayor of Wexford Borough District, and also the families of Paddy Finn, Dolores Fitzhenry, and Sean Scallan.

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

None

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

The Chair invited the reports, as directed, with minutes to reflect the order of business in which items were taken.

3.3 Housing Report.

Michele Bridges Carley, Administrative Officer, delivered her report and responded to queries from the Members.

3.3.1 Estate Maintenance

The report submitted by Michael Doyle, Executive Engineer, following a request by the Councillors at the December meeting, regarding the reinstatement of funding for the maintenance of Footpaths and Roads in Council estates was read.

A discussion followed.

It was agreed that the response contained in the report did not fully answer the questions raised at the December Meeting.

Annette O'Neill, District Director, confirmed that budgets were allocated to budget holders, who then in turn allocated funds to specific projects / programmes.

The District Director also clarified that the Risk Remediation Programme targeted high level risk areas and is not intended as a substitute maintenance programme.

Cllr Jim Moore requested clarification on the methodology / plan for the scheduling of works to address issues in the estates most in need.

In an effort to move this forward, it was agreed that clarification be sought from the Director of Services regarding a programme of works and the possibility of reinstating a funding provision for the upkeep of Social Housing Estates.

The Roads Executive Engineer confirmed that both he and the District Technician are completing surveys of the estates from a Roads perspective to evaluate what works might be required.

Bridgetown – Social Housing

The Administrative Officer agreed to confirm the timeline for the delivery of the new social houses in Bridgetown at the next meeting.

3.1 Roads Report

The Executive Engineer presented his report and responded to questions from the Members agreeing to investigate matters raised.

The Executive Engineer confirmed that the Roads Programme was currently being prepared.

He also confirmed that only works deemed essential were allowed whilst operating under level 5 restrictions.

Starvehall Lane Cross

Following on from concerns raised at the December meeting, and subsequent observations of the Executive Engineer, it was agreed that the most suitable course of action was for the Executive Engineer to correspond with the Wexford Borough Senior Executive Engineer, regarding safety issues at the junction outside of the functional area of the Rosslare Municipal District.

The Executive Engineer agreed to action this request.

3.4 Planning Report

The Executive Planner delivered his report and dealt with all queries which were raised by the Members.

Draft County Development Plan

The Executive Planner outlined the process and timeframes for the Draft County Development Plan, and following a query from Cllr Jim Moore agreed to confirm and advise whether a meeting of each District would be required prior to the meeting of the full council.

Pig Farm – Ballynagale, Taghmon

Following a query from Cllr Jim Codd regarding an assessment conducted by the Planning Department on the 24th November, the Executive Planner agreed to investigate and report back to the Members with the current status of the file.

Pig Farm – Killuger

The District Manager read the update which she received from Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department, stating;

“.....I am recommending to the Director that we issue legal proceedings for non-compliance with the Enforcement Notice, issued on this case on the 6th November.

In light of this recommendation, I will not be commenting any further on this case”.

The Environment Executive Engineer, George Colfer, further confirmed that legal proceedings had issued on behalf of the Environment Department under the Air Pollution Act, with the case due for hearing on the 21st February, and as such he was not in a position to comment further.

A discussion followed.

Following a proposal from Cllr Lisa McDonald, seconded by Cllr Jim Codd, it was agreed that an *“in committee”* meeting would be arranged with 3 community representatives, the Members, and the Executive in attendance.

The District Manager agreed to arrange this meeting as requested.

3.5 Planning Decisions – Grants

The content of the report circulated was noted by the Members.

3.6 Planning Decisions - Refusals

The content of the report circulated was noted by the Members.

3.7 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the report circulated was noted by the Members.

3.8 Community Development Report

Paul L'Estrange, A/Senior Executive Officer, introduced the report and responded to the Members questions.

Cllr Lisa McDonald congratulated the A/Senior Executive Officer, and the Community Department on the excellent work being carried out in the section including recent successes on both the T&V and ORIS programmes.

The Members agreed and requested to be associated with the comments.

The A/Senior Executive Officer, advised the Members that he would relay the Members sentiments to his team.

3.2 Water Services Report

Ken Jones, Executive Engineer, delivered his report and responded to the queries raised by the Members.

3.9 Environment Report

George Colfer, Executive Engineer, delivered the Environment Report to the Members and responded to queries raised.

Seaview

The Executive Engineer updated the Members, advising that the final report regarding Coastal Erosion, would be submitted to the OPW this week and advised that in the meantime the situation will be kept under continuous review.

He further advised that following receipt of this report, the OPW would be in a position to decide whether funding would be made available for Coastal Protection, and that it may be possible for the access to be incorporated into the erosion scheme.

The Members welcomed the progress and reaffirmed the need to progress both the issue of the coastal erosion and beach access as soon as possible.

Forth Mountain – Dog Fouling Signage

Following a query raised by Cllr Lisa McDonald, the Executive Engineer agreed to investigate the possibility of installing dog fouling signage/bins on the walking trail.

Ports, Past & Present

The Executive Engineer advised the Members that they could contact either himself or Cathrine Agnew if they had any queries regarding the project.

3.10 Fire Services Report

The content of the report circulated was noted by the Members.

4. District Manager Report

The District Manager delivered her report and responded to questions from the Members.

A discussion followed.

Casual Trading

Cllr Lisa McDonald requested that the Countywide *Casual Trading Bye-laws*, be progressed without delay.

The Members agreed to advise of possible locations as requested.

Cllr Jim Moore asked if, in the absence of current appropriate legislation, *Casual Trading* could be temporarily formalised in some way.

The District Manager agreed to investigate the possibility of introducing a licence based agreement in the absence of appropriate bye-laws.

Twining – Rosslare / Dunkirk

The Members noted and welcomed the progress, requesting to be kept updated on further developments.

Dedicated Office Space

The Chairman noted and welcomed the progress made in relation to the RMD Dedicated Office Space.

Cllr Jim Codd questioned the need for a new office.

The District Manager stated that the need and subsequent benefits were already established and agreed, further reminding Cllr Codd that the Members had sought the office development to assist with establishing the District and creating its identity.

Cllr Jim Moore advised the meeting that the District needed its own office space and that this had already been agreed and encouraged by all of the Members prior to the commencement of works, stating that he was looking forward to the office being operational.

Annette O'Neill, District Director, added that she found Cllr Codd's comments to be strange as the office had been requested by all of the Members, and that she was disappointed with the negative commentary about such a positive development in giving identity to the newly established District and more appropriate office accommodation for the administrative staff serving the district.

The Chairman confirmed that the need for a new office had been agreed by all of the Members on numerous occasions and that he was looking forward to officially opening the office in the future.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Ports, Past and Present - Internal Evaluation Report

5.2 Wexford Documentary Film Festival 2020 – Progress Report

The correspondence was noted, with congratulations being afforded to those connected with the *Ports, Past and Present* project.

6. Notice of Motion/s –

6.1 Notice of Motion – 11.01.21

“That the rosclare district supports putting a further truck onto our winter maintenance programme and that in the event that we request that the road from the murrin town roundabout to baldwinstown be added to any new maintenance route”.

Cllr Lisa McDonald

The motion was introduced by Cllr Lisa McDonald.

A discussion followed.

It was acknowledged that this was not a regional road, but agreed it was highly used nonetheless.

Cllr Jim Moore stated that there were 2 aspects to the motion, 1. Present arrangements , 2. Budgetary, and requested more information on which roads were gritted in the District, and advised all to be mindful that the request of providing another truck did not eat into the already stretched District Roads budget.

The Executive Engineer agreed to circulate the *Winter Maintenance Programme* at the next meeting.

The *Motion* was proposed by Cllr Lisa McDonald and seconded by Cllr Jim Codd.

The District Manager and Executive Engineer agreed to submit the Motion to the Roads Department for consideration.

7. Any Other Business

Protocol – The Gallery

Cllr Lisa McDonald requested that the procedural guideline regarding the Chairpersons interaction with members of the public attending the meeting, be discussed and clarified at the next protocol meeting.

The Members noted the request and agreed that clarification would be sought at the forthcoming protocol meeting of the plenary council.

8. Special Business (Internal / External Presentations etc)

None

9. Rosslare Municipal District – Dedicated Office Space

9.1 Progress Report – District Manager

This item was discussed under item 4. *District Manager Report*.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 15th February 2021



Cllr Frank Staples
An Cathaoirleach
Rosslare Municipal District

