

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 at 10.30hrs in the Council Chamber, Carricklawn,  
Wexford, and MS Teams (Remote).**

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**Presiding:** Cllr Jim Moore – An Cathaoirleach

**Councillors:** Cllr Jim Codd – Leas Cathaoirleach  
Cllr Ger Carthy

**Officials:** Nóirín Cummins – District Manager  
Annette O'Neill - District Director / Director of Services  
Mark Collins – Executive Engineer (Roads)  
Ken Jones – Executive Engineer (Water)  
Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer (Housing)  
Gerry Forde – Senior Engineer (Environment)  
Ger Mackey – A/Senior Executive Officer (Community)  
Fionnuala Callery A/Senior Engineer  
Patrick Waldron T/Assistant Engineer  
Yvonne Kelly Senior Staff Officer - Water Services  
Barry Kelly – Executive Technician  
Dean Waters – Staff Officer

**Remote Attendance**

**Councillors:** Cllr Lisa McDonald

**Officials:** Tom Banville – Senior Executive Officer (Planning)

**Apologies:** Cllr Frank Staples

Cllr Jim Moore, An Cathaoirleach, advised that the requisite quorum was present, welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**1.1 Monthly Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Cllr Jim Codd requested an amendment to the draft minutes as presented, and proposed that the following paragraph be inserted under item 4.1

*Flooding – OPW Report / Countywide Review*

*Following on from the decision taken at the January Meeting to arrange a meeting with the OPW when their report had been circulated and the Countywide review had taken place, Cllr Jim Codd reaffirmed the need for such a meeting which was fully supported by all members.*

Following the amendment, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of February 16<sup>th</sup> 2022, were proposed by Cllr Lisa McDonald and seconded by Cllr Jim Codd.

## **1.2 Matters Arising**

### **1.2.1 Matters Arising (Planning Enforcement)**

- Killuger, Killinick - Pig farm
- Ballynagale - Pig Farm
- Kilrane Business Park - Waste Management Facility

### **1.2.2 Matters Arising (Water Services) - Bing Group Sewerage Scheme Update Presentation / See Item 8**

The responses and information provided in relation to queries from the previous meeting were noted.

Following a recommendation by the Chair it was agreed that the responses would be revisited, as necessary, under the appropriate agenda item.

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

### **2.1 Resident Association Grants 2022 - Eligible Applications / Allocations**

On the proposal of Cllr Lisa McDonald, seconded by Cllr Jim Codd, the allocations were adopted as presented.

## **3. District Manager Report**

### **3.1 District Managers Report - January**

The District Manager delivered her reports and responded to questions raised by the Members.

#### *Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis*

Cllr Lisa McDonald congratulated the Chair and the District Manager for their efforts to ensure a friendly welcome to the Ukrainian refugees and stated that she was proud to see them both in attendance at Rosslare Europort.

These sentiments were reaffirmed and agreed by all those present.

Cllr Ger Carthy, expressed thanks to the *Rosslare Harbour Friends of Ukraine*, Ger Mackey and the Community Department, and all the community groups involved with providing the ongoing supports.

Cllr Jim Codd stated that it was wonderful to see the community response to the crisis, and how unified the people of Wexford had been.

### **3.1.1 Declaration of Intent - Dunkerque / Rosslare**

#### *Twinning – St Patrick's Day visit to Dunkirk*

The District Manager advised the meeting that during their St Patrick's Day visit to Dunkirk they had met with Le Mayor of The Urban Community of Dunkirk and senior members of his cabinet, discussing a range of opportunities to enhance the *Rosslare - Dunkerque* partnership and how best to further develop them.



She also confirmed that during the trip they had visited the Port of Dunkirk and had received an extensive tour of the facilities by senior officials at the port of Dunkirk.

Following the report of the District Manager, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, gave further detail on their St Patrick's Day visit to Dunkirk, advising that during the formalities, on behalf of the Municipal District of Rosslare, he had signed the official *Declaration of Intent* document as a formal agreement for future engagement.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, stated that the future partnership would be hugely beneficial to Rosslare, the County, the Region, and the Country. He also advised that he would be presenting a more detailed and comprehensive report to the April meeting.

The District Manager confirmed that Le Mayor Patrice Vergriete and a delegation intended to visit Ireland in early June 2022.

#### **4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

Following a proposal by the Chair and agreement by the Members, the Chair invited the reports as directed, with minutes to reflect the order of business in which items were taken.

##### **4.8 Community Development Report**

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

##### *Community Activity Fund*

The A/Senior Executive Officer confirmed that the **Community Activities Fund (CAF)** allocations had been endorsed by the **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)** and had been forwarded to the **Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)** for final approval.

##### *Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis*

Responding to previous comments from the Members, the A/Senior Executive Officer commended the multi-agency approach to the Ukrainian humanitarian crisis and acknowledged the work of community groups across the County, stating that it was a positive story in a tragic situation. This was agreed by all present.

The Members further agreed that an appropriate level of funding needed to be forthcoming from Central Government to ensure that the necessary supports could be adequately delivered at a local level.

##### **4.1 Roads Report**

The Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to questions from the Members agreeing to further investigate and/or progress certain matters raised including;

- *Bus Shelter Report*
- *Portside to Rosslare Harbour Footpath*
- *Incidental Flooding at Specific Locations*
- *Sandbag Distribution*

- *Bridgetown Dredging*

#### *Flooding – OPW Report / Countywide Review*

The Members expressed their dissatisfaction and frustration with the progress to date, and in particular the role of the OPW, in relation to the ongoing issues and effects of the flooding across the District.

The District Director advised the meeting that, as outlined at previous meetings, the OPW are currently completing the Countywide report/review.

A discussion followed.

The Members proposed an urgent motion be forwarded to the County Secretary for consideration at the next plenary meeting of the Council.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, undertook to submit an appropriately worded motion as proposed.

A second proposal was also put forward by the Members calling on the Special Projects Team to assist in supporting the responses needed. This proposal was further amended to include the engagement of the Director of Road services in this initiative.

#### *Roads Programme*

The 2022 Roads Programme was presented by the Executive Engineer.

The Members acknowledged the difficulties facing the District in servicing 640km of road network whilst receiving limited funding from central government, agreeing that extra funding be sought wherever possible.

A discussion followed.

The 2022 Roads Programme, as presented, was proposed by Cllr Ger Carthy and seconded by Cllr Lisa McDonald.

### **4.2 Water Services Report**

The Executive Engineer delivered his report and responded to questions from the Members agreeing to further investigate the following matter;

- *Bridgetown storage tanks*

#### *Irish Water - Connection Charges*

Following observations from the members regarding extremely high connection fees, Fionnuala Callery, A/Senior Engineer, advised the Members that whilst the fees are set by *Irish Water*, and not under the control of *Wexford County Council*, there is a dedicated contact for Councillors to make representations on behalf of constituents in such cases.

The A/Senior Engineer also advised the Members that Irish Water completed pricing reviews from time to time and undertook to notify the Members when the next Irish Water pricing review was due to commence.



### **4.3 Housing Report.**

The previously circulated Housing report was noted by the Members. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer, agreed to answer any questions from the Members or investigate any specific matters and respond as appropriate.

A discussion followed.

#### *Proposed Pilot Scheme*

Cllr Ger Carthy requested an update on the pilot scheme for the delivery of individual houses in the District, requesting that a *plan of action* be made available for the next meeting.

The Administrative Officer agreed to relay the request.

#### *HAP Qualifying Criteria / Rent Increases*

Following observations from the Members regarding the qualifying criteria for the *Housing Assistance Payment* (HAP) and the difficulties being faced by those needing housing supports in finding suitable accommodation within budget, Cllr Lisa McDonald proposed that correspondence be sent to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, requesting that both the *Income Thresholds* and *HAP Rates* be reviewed. Cllr Jim Moore seconded the proposal, which was agreed by all present.

The District Manager agreed to action the request.

### **4.4 Planning Report**

The previously circulated report was noted by the Members before the Senior Executive Officer responded to their questions.

#### *Resources – Staff Shortages*

Following comments from the Members regarding the current staff shortages in the Planning Department, the Senior Executive Officer acknowledged that there was a lack of resources, confirming that interviews were taking place at the end of the month and following due process appointments would be made.

#### **4.4.1 Dangerous and Derelict Sites Report**

The report was noted by the Members.

A discussion followed.

Following requests from the Members, the Senior Executive Officer agreed to initiate inspections of the following sites;

- *Old Mill in Bridgetown*
- *Remains of house in Taghmon*

### **4.5 Planning Decisions – Grants**

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

#### **4.6 Planning Decisions – Refusals**

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

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Following acknowledgment from the Chair of the current time being 12:30, Cllr Jim Codd proposed the suspension of Standing Orders. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Ger Carthy and the meeting continued.

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#### **4.9 Environment Report**

The Senior Engineer delivered the previously circulated report and dealt with the queries which were raised by the Members, agreeing to further investigate and/or progress certain matters including;

- *St Helens – Shower Installation*
- *Rosslare Harbour – Public Convenience Installation*
- *Four Winds – Steps Installation Feasibility*
- *Various Dumping Hotspots*

#### **Casual Trading / Harbour and Beach By-Laws**

Following questions from the Members surrounding Casual Trading in the District, the District Manager and District Director advised the meeting of the current position of Rosslare Municipal District in relation to such requests, agreeing to circulate the factsheet currently being used as response to all initial enquiries within the jurisdiction of RMD.

##### **4.9.1 Seaview / Coastal Erosion - Update**

The Senior Engineer updated the Members on the status of the *Seaview Coastal Erosion Scheme* and responded to their questions.

##### **4.9.2 Coastal Erosion Presentation**

The Senior Engineer delivered a Coastal Erosion Presentation and responded to the questions of the Members.

#### **4.7 Libraries Archives & Arts Report**

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

#### **4.10 Fire Services Report**

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

#### **4.11 Members New Support System**

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

### **5. Correspondence**

### **6. Notice of Motion/s – None.**

## **8. Special Business (Internal / External Presentations etc)**

### **8.1 Bing Group Sewerage Scheme Update - Fionnuala Callery A/Senior Engineer, Patrick Waldron T/Assistant Engineer, and Yvonne Kelly Senior Staff Officer - Water Services**

The attendees were welcomed to the meeting by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, on behalf of the Members.

The presentation on the Bing Wastewater Treatment Plant was delivered by Fionnuala Callery, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services, Patrick Waldron T/Assistant Engineer, and Yvonne Kelly, Senior Staff Officer, Water Services.

The Group were thanked by the Members for their full and comprehensive report.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### *Horses on Road Ahead - Signage*

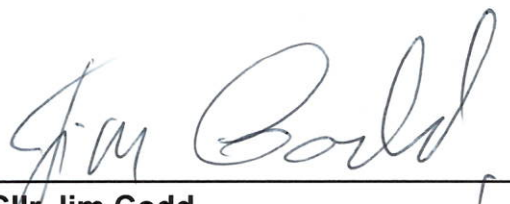
Following comments from the Members, the Executive Engineer Mark Collins, advised that any requests for the installation of signage at specific locations would need to be individually assessed.

### *Civic Awards 2022*

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Moore, advised the meeting that the first 2022 Civic Awards Ceremony was proceeding as planned at 19:00hrs on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March in Johnstown Castle, and invited all to attend.

## **THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Signed on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022



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**Cllr Jim Codd**  
**Leas Cathaoirleach**  
**Rosslare Municipal District**

