

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ENNISCORTHY HELD IN THE
PRESENTATION CENTRE, ENNISCORTHY ON MONDAY,
25th MARCH at 9.30 a.m.**

Attendance:

Councillors: Cllr. John O'Rourke (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Jackser Owens (Leas-Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Kathleen Codd-Nolan
Cllr. Cathal Byrne
Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy
Cllr. Aidan Browne

Officials: Ms Carolyne Godkin, Director of Service
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Manager
Mr. Neil Dempsey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Edel Nolan, Staff Officer
Mr Neville Shaw, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr Larry McHale, Project Resident Engineer.
Mr David Whitty, Executive Engineer.

Via Teams: Ms Caroline Creane, Administrative Officer.
Mr Ronan Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies: Ms. Roseanne Redmond, Senior Staff Officer
Ms Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist.
Mr Eoin Newman, Assistant Planner.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sincere sympathies to the following:-

- The Kavanagh and Owens family on the death of Mr Sean Kavanagh, Milehouse.
- The Kinsella Family on the death of Mrs Mary Kinsella Nee Nolan, mother of former Councillor Michael Kinsella and sister-in-law of Councillor Kathleen Codd Nolan.
- The Furlong Family on the death of Mr Keith Furlong, Moran Park/St Aidan's Villa's.

A minute's silence was observed by all present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Minutes of the February Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy – 19th February 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Browne, the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Enniscorthy held on 19th February 2024 were adopted by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1.2 Matters Arising

Cllr Owens requested an update on the replacement of recently resigned Adult School Warden.

Cllr Murphy requested an update on the proposed Heritage Panels for Vinegar Hill.

Cllr Browne and Cllr Byrne requested an update on the new drawings and the online booking system for the Sports Hub.

The District Manager confirmed that HR will be running a new recruitment campaign for the replacement as there is no panel currently in place for both the Heritage Officer and Adult School Warden. She informed both Cllr Byrne and Cllr Browne that Special Projects would cover the plans for the Sports Hub.

2. Consideration of Reports & Recommendations:

2.1 Planning

The Planning reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

Eoin Newman Assistant Planner apologies were noted. The members were disappointed that no replacement could attend in his absence. After a brief discussion on the matter of the meeting being changed due to Bank Holiday, it was proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Browne that in future if a scheduled meeting falls on a Bank Holiday the meeting should happen on the next day, Tuesday.

2.2 Community, Environment, Libraries & Fire Service

The Community, Libraries and Fire Service reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

2.2.1 Agreement of Statement of Compliance between the Local Economic and Community Plan and County Development Plan Ms Caroline Creane gave an overview of the plan and Cllr Murphy proposed that the plan be accepted, and Cllr Browne seconded same.

Cllr Owens queried as to the number of Fire Personnel now in employment with Wexford County Council.

Cllr Browne requested that attention be given to Marconi Park with regards to litter clean up.

Cllr Codd Nolan queried as to the date for National Spring Clean week, District Manager confirmed that it is the week of the 1st April.

Cllr Murphy requested an update on the CCTV policy for litter prosecutions, if the council has any follow up on bin providers not collecting bins and also if the proposed Mattress and Paint Amnesty could include Furniture?

Director of Services Ms Godkin answered all the questions and committed to reverting with regards to if furniture can be included in the Amnesty.

Cathaoirleach Councillor John O'Rourke requested that a drop off point be included for the disposal of duvets and pillows to reduce the number of said items ending up in our rivers.

2.3 Housing

Apologies from Ms Roseanne Redmond were noted. The reports circulated prior to the meeting were noted. The Members put forward several queries and concerns, in particular:

- The delivery date of both An Glasain and Castlelands estates.
- Do the same rules apply for AHB's as to Wexford County Council rental property conditions?
- The possibility of including single persons presenting homeless to be located in the facility formerly know as Moyne Nursing Home?
- Do Wexford County Council provide help to HAP recipients if the landlord increases the rent?
- An update on the proposed development at the Lyre?.

Director of Services Ms Godkin answered the members queries and committed to reverting with further answers and updates before the next meeting.

2.4 Municipal District Report

The Municipal District report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The District Manager informed the members that Mr Seamus Kinsella would be commencing as Town Foreman from the 25th March 2024 and wished him well in his new role.

All-Weather Astro Pitch, Ross Road, Enniscorthy

Due to wet weather conditions, there has been a delay on this project. Works are due to commence again on Monday 25th March. Estimated time for completion of works is 30th April.

Management and Operation of the Astro Pitch

Discussions are ongoing in relation to the management and operation of the new Astro Pitch.

It is proposed that a 2-year term contract will issue on a pilot basis to the community entity, Wexford Football Alliance (newly established) with two extensions of 1-year each.

Details are being finalised on the booking system, rates to be charged and overall management and operation of the facility. Further details will be provided at the April Enniscorthy MD meeting.

The members queried if the facility would be available to use by all clubs of any sport? The District Manager confirmed that yes it would.

Amenity and Arts Grants and Residents Association Grant Schemes 2023

The Enniscorthy Municipal District received approximately 87 applications under the Amenity & Arts Grant Scheme and approximately 22 under the Resident Associations Grant Scheme. Applications have been considered by the Elected Members and will be brought to the meeting for approval.

Civic Honours Reception

10 nominations for Civic Honours have been received from the Members for consideration for receipt of a Civic Honour. Please submit nominations by Friday 12th April. The Civic Honours Sub Committee will meet on Monday 15th April to select nominees for approval by the Municipal District.

Vinegar Hill

The seating for the trails has been delivered. A site visit was carried out and locations for 7 seats were chosen.

It is hoped to install these seats in the coming weeks.

Footpath overgrowth and hedges were also trimmed back in the Vinegar hill areas.

Grass Cutting

Grass Cutting has commenced in the Enniscorthy areas.

Rourke Horticultural Services will be carrying out this work in maintaining of parks and open spaces in the town and district.

This will include the new estate at Droichead Carley.

Street Cleaning

Street Power washing has commenced in the Town. Whelan Cleaning Services are carrying out this work at nighttime.

This work will include the main streets around the town and the plaza area at the bottom of Castle Hill.

Street cleaning will be carried out twice a year, now and in September.

This current cleaning work will be completed before the Easter break.

Cllr Browne requested cleaning to be carried out in Ferns and Cllr Murphy requested cleaning to be carried out in Bunclody also.

Tanyard Lane

Lighting Upgrade at the Alleyway between Rafer Street and the old Dunnes Stores carpark was carried out last weekend where new LED lighting and day/nighttime sensor were fitted.

Slaney Place

Preparation has commenced for paving and re-developing flowerbeds at Slaney Place.

Hughes and Hennessey are carrying out this work. It is hoped to complete this paving in the next couple of weeks.

Old Fencing

Old fencing and barbed wire which was located on the wall between the public carpark and the back of the Garda station had become overgrown with weeds. It had collapsed onto a shed roof and into the garda station compound approximately three months ago. This was unsightly and was removed last week.

Farmers Market

Prices have been sought for the provision of independent electrical hookups for the Farmers market.

This will give them a better, more secure supply than the one they are currently using.

Cllr Codd Nolan queried the cost of same and Cllr Byrne queried the long term plan for the Farmers Market and the possibility of relocating to Market Square once the Town Centre First works are carried out.

Public Payphone Upgrade

Clear Channel have applied for planning to remove the old Eircom Kiosks and replace them with one aesthetically sympathetic contemporary information and payphone display unit. This will be located in the vicinity of the Rafter Street/Wafer Street area.

It is hoped to have this work carried out as soon as possible once planning is granted.

Cllr Murphy requested an update on the removal of the payphone in Bunclody. The District Manager informed the members that Bunclody would be done once Enniscorthy is completed.

Festival Programme 2024

Easter Monday – 1st April

The Easter Monday event with the celebration of mass will take place in the Cathedral at 10am followed by a procession to Market Square where the Chairman, Cllr. John

O'Rourke will lay a wreath. Further details along with the running order of the event will be circulated in due course.

The Rockin' Food and Fruit Festival 3rd - 6th May

The Rockin' Food and Fruit Festival will take place in Enniscorthy over the May Bank Holiday Weekend and promises to be a unique food, family and music festival. Further information can be obtained through the festival website www.rockinfoodfestival.ie.

Ceremonial Event – 7th March 2023

Enniscorthy Municipal District, Wexford County Council hosted a ceremonial event at Vinegar Hill on Thursday afternoon 7th March to commemorate the 176th anniversary of the first day the Tri Colour was flown publicly on 7th March 1884 in Waterford by Thomas Franics Meagher and also carried in a parade on Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy.

Edel Nolan Staff Officer Enniscorthy Municipal District who performed the duties of master of Ceremonies welcomed members of the public and invited guests, to a breezy Vinegar Hill.

Councillor John O'Rourke, Chairman of Enniscorthy Municipal District welcomed everybody and stated that he was *'delighted that Enniscorthy Municipal District mark this important occasion. This is a significant event worthy of us coming together to remember the meaning behind the Tricolour and drawing its relevance to our own lives in 2024'*.

Mr Brian Cleary, Historian was then invited to speak. Mr Cleary informed the attendees that Wexford County Council 'must rank among the best Councils in all Ireland for remembering our history, most strikingly in recent years by your initiation of the 1798 Bicentenary here on this hill with the massive Bastille Day celebration in 1989'.

The Tri colour was then hoisted by Sgt. Conor Tyrell and Lieut. John Furlong of the 3rd Infantry Battalion, James Barracks, Kilkenny, accompanied by Mr Anthony Nolan on the trumpet playing the Reveille and the ceremony concluded with a rendition of the National Anthem.

St. Patricks Day Parade

Following on from a call out for new committee members in late January a new committee was formed. The parade was one of the best in recent history with almost 30 groups and 700 people taking part in the event.

Many thanks to Martin Murphy, Event Co-Ordinator and other committee members who give up their spare time for the benefit of the town. Mary Murphy, Maria Nolan, Sarah Kelly, Alfie O' Sullivan, Tom Boland and Claire Lawless.

Many thanks also to the staff of Enniscorthy Municipal District and Wexford County Council who assisted with the event.

The Theme for this year parade was 'Mardi Fleadh' which brought an abundance of colour, creativity, Irish music and fun to this years parade.

Enniscorthy Municipal District, Wexford County Council and Enniscorthy Creative Places kindly sponsored prizes for the St. Patricks Day festival this year. The winners of three prizes are as follows:-

€500 Martina Leacy Dance Academy

€500 Brazillian Community Group

€500 Smyths, Homevalue for the best Business Window Display

Philomena Murphy won €100 Hamper Prize from Petits Surpervalu for the Best Dressed person on the day.

Live music performances were held in the Market Square following the parade.

Thank you to all the participants who took part in the parade and to the people of Enniscorthy and beyond for turning out with pride and wearing green on St. Patricks Day.

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Enniscorthy Riverside Trail

The rehabilitation of the Riverside Trail is proceeding well and is expected to be completed prior to the 26 April.

The Urrin Loop on the south bank is complete.

The contractor is preparing to start realigning the Urrin Loop on the north bank.

The intention is to move onto the Blackstoops Link (The Banks) after these works.

Cllr Murphy requested an update on the proposed relocation of the 'Mall' sign in Bunclody. The District manager informed the members that she is in the process of requesting permission from the premises owner.

Cllr Owens requested that contact be made with Caredoc or Chemist to try and establish a full chemist cover for all weekends in Enniscorthy Town. Cllr Owens also requested an update on the camera for outside the Presentation Centre. The District Manager confirmed that the camera is being installed today.

2.5 Roads Report.

The Roads Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Executive Engineer Mr Dempsey informed the Members that resurfacing works were due to commence in the coming week on the Railway Square parking area. The Members raised several queries to which Mr. Dempsey, Executive Engineer responded:

- Lighting required at the rear of Bellefield Terrace
- Update on pedestrian crossings throughout the district.
- Repairs requested for various roads in the district.
- Sightlines and speed issues on the R746 to Bunclody.
- Yield signs on bridge at the Still.
- Ramp in Bohreen Hill.
- Line Marking throughout the town.

Mr Dempsey committed to reverting to the members with any outstanding queries.

Cathaoirleach O'Rourke at this juncture called for a break in the meeting to allow for tea 10.40am.

Meeting resumed at 10.52am.

2.6 Flood Defence Report.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Mr Larry McHale updated the members and answered queries that were raised.

2.7 Special Projects.

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Mr David Whitty, Executive Engineer was in attendance to answer the members queries.

Cllr Murphy requested an update on the funding for the proposed Park for Bunclody and an update on the North Enniscorthy Business Park development.

Cllr Byrne requested an update on the Town First Plan and the next stages in the process. Cllr Byrne and Cllr Browne queried the upcoming plan to demolish the old Murphy Flood's Site and what is intended to happen with the site in the interim until a private investor is secured.

Cllr Browne requested a copy of the new plans for the proposed development of the Sports Hub.

All members noted the importance of the regeneration of the Templeshannon area in the Town Centre First Plan.

Cllr Codd Nolan queried if Rather Street might be included in the Town Centre First Plan.

Mr Whitty answered the members queries and committed to forwarding the plans for the Sports Hub.

2.8 3 Year Capital Programme.

The 3 year Capital Programme was presented to the members. A discussion with the Director of Services took place on the numerous projects for Enniscorthy Municipal District on the 3 year Capital Programme.

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

3.1 Section 183 Notice to District, Marley, Marshalstown. Cllr Codd Nolan proposed, and Cllr Browne seconded.

6. Any Other Business.

6.1 Amenity & Arts Grants and Residents Association Grants approval. Cllr Murphy proposed and Cllr Owens seconded the approval.

6.2 Festival Funding allocations. Cllr Murphy proposed and Cllr Byrne seconded the approval.

4. Notices of Motion.

4.1 Consider Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Owens.

Pedestrian crossing to be put in place at Marshalstown Primary School (214 Students).

Cllr Owen's motion was discussed by the members,

5. Correspondence.

None.

At this juncture the Cathaoirleach Cllr O Rourke reminded the members to submit their nominations for Civic recognition/Reception in order for the list to be brought to an April Meeting of the Civic Honours Sub Committee.

This concluded the business of the Meeting at 11.45am.

John O' Rourke
CATHAOIRLEACH

15th April 2024
DATE