**MINUTES OF JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 10th JULY, 2023 IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.15 P.M.**

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| **MEMBERS PRESENT:** | **Cllrs E Dooley, P Ormond, J Carroll**  **J Clendennen, C Claffey and J Leahy** |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | **Ms A Dillon, DOS, Mr J Mitchell, SEE, Mr Mark Finlay, OCC, & Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator** |

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 12th June, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Leahy the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 12th June, 2023 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 12th June, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Claffey the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Birr MD held on 12th June, 2023 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th June, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Leahy and seconded by Cllr Carroll the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held 12th June, 2023 were adopted.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the June 2023 meeting:**

There were no matters arising.

**Environment, Climate Action and Rural Water Report**

Mr Mark Finlay, OCC advised the Members that they would not be presenting a report on Climate Action at this meeting as it was being presented to the next meeting of the full Council. He then presented the Members with an update in relation to Environment and Rural Water. The Members thanked him for his report and raised the following:

* The Members praised the proactive work being carried out by the Litter Wardens in the Birr MD area and recognised the assistance that is being provided to Tidy Towns and other voluntary groups in supplying them with litter pickers and bags and disposing of the litter for them once collected. They also thanked the Community Employment participants for the assistance they are providing to groups in the area.
* The Members raised the issue of dog fouling in the area and asked that signs would be erected to try to discourage same and asked if there are any examples of dog free zones in other towns that could be considered. The Members expressed concern about the increase in dogs that are being surrendered and the small budget that is being provided to the vet services in OCC for the control of dogs, horses etc.
* The Members noted that the local elections will be held in 2024 and suggested that one area should be designated within a town or village for candidates to display their posters. Some members felt that this would be unfair on new candidates and it was agreed that this would be addressed to the SPC for their consideration.
* The Members enquired about the provision of bins at the Marina in Banagher for the summer, they advised that Galway County Council were going to provide a bin and they were hoping that Offaly County Council would do the same. They also enquired about the locations of the new solar bins that were being installed in the county. The Members also raised concerns in relation to the amount of Litter Pollution complaints received in the MD and were advised that OCC have been approved for a grant of €72500 try and tackle the issues around illegal dumping.
* The Members raised concerns in relation to the maintenance on graveyards in the MD and advised that they had received numerous calls from constituents in relation to the No Mow May initiative and the way it was being implemented and how the grass was now not being cut in June and July in certain graveyards. They asked that a plan would be put in place in advance for the implementation of the upkeep of burial grounds by appointing a Contractor to carry out the work and that the Environment section would revert to the Members with this plan. The Members also raised the issue of dumping in the old graveyard in Clonoghill and what further can be done to deter this. The Members thanked the Council for the work carried out in Rath graveyard.
* The Members congratulated the schools that have participated in the Green Schools Programme and had received their Green Flag awards recently. They enquired if this could be extended to secondary school students or in to sports or other clubs in the area. Mr Finlay advised that he would discuss this initative with the Green Schools Officer in OCC.
* The Members expressed concern in relation to the low usage of the Civic Amenity Site in Birr and suggested that it may benefit from a change of name, better advertisement and additional signage. They were advised that Oxigen propose to commence public advertising in July and August to try and increase usage.
* The Members welcomed the remediation works to be carried out at old landfill sites at Birr and Kilcormac and enquired how long it would take to bring them back in to future use and what they were likely to be used for. They were advised that the EPA will approve final remediation works.

**Any Other Business**

The Members expressed concern in relation to the length of time it was taking to secure an ESB connection to new housing developments and this was holding up the completion times e.g. Beechgrove, Belmont. The Members requested that a letter be sent to the ESB and to the Minister to convey their dissatisfaction with the service being provided.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CATHAOIRLEACH MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**