**MINUTES OF MAY MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 8TH MAY, 2023 IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 5.00 P.M.**

**========================================================**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MEMBERS PRESENT:**  **APOLOGIES:** | **Cllrs E Dooley, P Ormond, J Carroll**  **J Clendennen, and J Leahy**  **Cllr Claffey** |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | **Ms A Dillon, DOS, Mr J Mitchell, SEE, Mr J Cunningham SE Housing Services OCC, & Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator** |

**Vote of Sympathy:**

The Cathaoirleach extended a vote of sympathy on behalf of the Members to Mr John Mitchell SEE, Birr MD on the recent death of his mother Teresa.

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 11th April, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Leahy the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 11th April, 2023 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th April, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Leahy the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 11th April, 2023 were adopted.

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

There were no matters arising.

**Housing Services Update**

Mr John Cunningham, SE, Housing Services delivered an update to the Members on the work being carried out at present within his section. The Members thanked him for her report and raised the following:

* The Members complimented the staff in the housing section on the great work they are trying to do since the eviction ban has been lifted trying to keep people in their homes.
* Complimented the excellent scheme of houses completed at Woodfield, Birr and enquired where the next batch of houses were likely to come from. Mr Cunningham advised that the next batch of turnkey houses were being looked at but the priority would have to be trying to develop on council owned lands as it is hard to find land to purchase for development. The Members urged that the development of a housing scheme on the Rectory Lands in Birr would commence as soon as is possible. The Members were concerned with the lack of houses that are becoming available through the Part V scheme as there is very little development taking place and every village in the county is crying out for housing.
* The Members enquired about the current retrofit scheme, how many properties are likely to be completed this year and if solar panels are being included for funding by the Dept., Mr Cunningham advised that solar panels are costly and at present are not being funded by the Dept. The Members further enquired if smart meters had been installed in all council properties yet and were advised that at present very few had been installed.
* The Members raised the issue of HAP and LTL properties and how long it is taking for these to be inspected and for the work to be carried out by the landlord, Mr Cunningham advised that a shortage of staff had been delaying inspections and trying to procure external operators was proving difficult, he also advised that it can be difficult to get the landlords to carry out the works that are required.
* The Members enquired about the waiting list for DPGs in the Birr area and were advised that the waiting time is approx. two years, 12 houses in Birr MD are currently due to start works under this scheme.
* The Members enquired about the possibility of affordable housing for people coming on stream as opposed to all social housing, they were advised that there are a number of schemes out there to help people purchase their own property e.g. First Home Scheme and also schemes to entice owners to bring vacant and derelict houses back on to the market and applications for these scheme were experiencing a growth. Mr Cunningham advised that Affordable Housing funding from the Dept. has not been made available to Offaly yet.

**Any Other Business:**

1. The Members were advised by the DOS that Failte Ireland are hosting a drop-in clinic in the Tullamore Court Hotel from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm by way of public consultation. Failte Ireland intends to launch the Regenerative Tourism Scheme in July/August 2023 and they are asking businesses, communities any anyone with good project ideas to share their ideas on how this fund could help to develop tourism in the Midlands area sustainably.

The Meeting then concluded.

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**