

**MINUTES OF APRIL MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
OF BIRR HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2022 IN BIRR  
CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs E Dooley, P Ormond, J Carroll  
J Clendennen and J Leahy

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Claffey

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Stephane Duclot, DOS, Mr John Mitchell,  
Senior Executive Engineer, Ms Mary Hussey  
Environment and Water Services OCC, Ms  
Deirdre Molloy, Meetings Administrator.

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Leahy the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Dooley the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 were adopted.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the March 2022 meeting:**

There were no matters arising from the March meeting

**Environment and Water Services Report**

Ms Mary Hussey of Environment and Water Services OCC delivered an update to the Members on the work being carried out at present within her section, Ms Hussey advised the Members that Mr John McNally had been appointed as the dedicated Climate Action and Energy Officer since November 2021. She further advised that it has now become mandatory that details of all business trips undertaken by Members and officials of the Council have to be returned to the Dept. The Members thanked her for her report and raised the following:

- Welcomed the appointment of the Climate Action and Energy Officer.
- Works carried out to extend Kilreaghan Cemetary in Ferbane, there were drainage works to be carried out as part of this project and what is the status of that work now? Ms Hussey advised that she would make further enquiries about this matter and revert to the Members at a later date.
- The Members raised the ongoing issue of dumping at the old Clonoghill cemetery in Birr, and also what plans are in place for grasscutting for the coming season.? The Members also advised that there is an excellent committee in place looking after the new graveyard in Clonoghill and the grass is being cut by the volunteers and tidied up on a regular basis. The Members further enquired if areas of the burial grounds were to be left to grow wild as part of the No Mow May campaign? Ms Hussey advised that Mr Mark Finlay was the liaison person dealing with burial ground committees in the county. She further advised that any areas that were being included in the No Mow May campaign would have signs erected to inform the public of this.

- Works currently underway at the new Water Treatment plant in Birr, the residents in the area are unhappy about the noise and disruption that they are encountering. Ms Hussey advised that she would liaise with IW and the Contractors on site in relation to this issue.
- Enquired about the works proposed to alleviate the flooding problem at Shannonbridge. and were advised that preparatory work is ongoing by the OPW.
- Acknowledged the great work that was carried out during National Spring Clean week both by staff and volunteers in their communities, but felt that this scheme needed greater publicity. The Members acknowledged that large numbers of people are using the recycling centres but that the volumes of fly-tipping and dog fouling are continuing to increase, can CCTV be used at these locations Ms Hussey advised that relevant legislation is currently being put through the Dail in relation to the use of CCTV? She further advised that in relation to the dog fouling issues if particular areas were identified to the Council, they could be brought to the attention of the dog warden.
- The Members commended the trees that were planted under the Tree of Hope Programme and enquired if plaques were going to be provided for the trees. Ms Hussey advised that a video is currently being prepared on tree aftercare which will be available on YouTube, and advised that plaques will be rolled out at a later date.
- The Members enquired about the current retrofitting programme, is it only for council properties or will Bord Na Mona houses be included. They further outlined the difficulties that will arise come September if turf cutting will no longer be permitted, will all houses then have pellet stoves or how are people expected to heat their homes. Ms Hussey advised that the council are currently only retrofitting their own stock but that grants may be available through the SEAI for any other home owners who wish to upgrade their dwelling.

The Meeting then concluded.

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**