

**MINUTES OF APRIL MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
OF BIRR HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH APRIL, 2023 IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICES,
WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.00 P.M.**

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, Ms
Maria Treacy, Climate, Environment and Water
Services OCC, & Ms D Molloy, Meetings
Administrator

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 20th March,
2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 20th March, 2023 were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 20th March, 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 20th March, 2023 were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the March 2023 meeting:

There were no matters arising.

Climate, Water and Environment Services Update

Ms Maria Treacy of Climate, Environment and Water Services OCC delivered an update to the Members on the work being carried out at present within her section. The Members thanked her for her report and raised the following:

- The Members enquired about the Climate Action Plan, when this will be adopted and how is the plan developed? They were advised that the Climate Action Officer and his staff in OCC would be overseeing the plan, engaging with stakeholders and carrying out consultation before the Draft Plan is developed. It has also carried out an audit and is striving to make local authority buildings more energy efficient. The Members noted that the targets set are quite ambitious and if these targets are not met will penalties be imposed?
- The Members enquired about the rural water schemes and if any progress was made in relation to the Dunkerrin Scheme. The Members commended the great work that has been carried out by Group Water Schemes that were being looked after by voluntary members in the community.
- They also enquired about the lead remediation grant and how this is distributed, is there a separate budget for each county, and also do we have a register of properties that have lead piping? Ms Treacy advised that she would check with Water Services section in relation to this and report back to the Members.
- The Members acknowledged the great work being carried out by the Environment Section in relation to Green Schools and National Spring Clean Week, but the problem of fly-tipping and dumping remains and a zero tolerance stance needs to be taken in relation to this. They enquired if it could be highlighted on the next report that is presented to them how many fines are

being issued, cases being brought to court. They also highlighted the issue of dog fouling as a major problem, and enquired if there was any funding available for community groups to get leaflets to promote awareness. Ms Treacy advised that there may be funding available under the anti-dumping initiative from the Dept. to create a campaign in relation to dog fouling. The Members enquired if there was any funding available for CCTV cameras to be used for detection and prevention and were advised that the Data Protection Legislation in relation to the use of cameras is still not fully in place.

- The Members congratulated the current Water Services staff in the MD on the excellent work that is being carried out by them, and that the public are getting frustrated by the system Irish Water are using for reporting issues, they expressed a hope that the new SLA with Irish Water would not interfere with the excellent service being provided at present by the Council.
- 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. They highlighted some recent cases in relation to sheep being killed by dogs in the MD area and felt that there needs to be greater monitoring of dogs roaming wild.
- 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. It was agreed that this would be addressed to the SPC for their consideration.
- The Members enquired if any discussions had taken place with other stakeholders in relation to the provision of bins at the Marina in Banagher and at Shannonbridge for the summer, Ms Treacy advised that she would revert to the Members in relation to this.

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Mr John Mitchell Senior Executive Engineer, Birr Municipal District presented the Schedule of Municipal District works programme for 2023 to the Members. The Members noted the contents and on the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Ormond the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2023 was adopted.

Any Other Business:

1. The Members thanked Mr Mitchell and his staff for cleaning the signage within the MD as had been requested.
2. The Members enquired about looking for sources of funding to provide a columbarium wall at cemeteries for cremated remains, they were advised that this currently being looked at by the SPC.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: