

**MINUTES OF MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 20TH MARCH, 2023 IN BIRR CIVIC
OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 5.00 P.M.**

=====

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs E Dooley, P Ormond, J Carroll
J Clendennen, C Claffey and J Leahy

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms A Dillon, DOS, OCC, Mr J Mitchell, SEE Birr
MD, Mr Niall Hogan EE & Ms D Molloy,
Meetings Administrator

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 13th February,
2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Leahy and seconded by Cllr Dooley the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 13th February, 2023 were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13th February, 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr Claffey and seconded by Cllr Ormond the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 13th February, 2023 were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the February 2023 meeting:

The. Members requested that a letter be sent to the Minister re job lossees at Milnes and Derrilough.

The Members were advised that a meeting had been requested with the HSE no response confirming a date for the meeting had been receivedte.

Roads Programme 2023

Mr John Mitchell, SEE advised the Members that there was no funding announcement as of yet for 2023 but it is presumed it will be close to 2022 levels. He asked the Members to contact him in relation to any roads that they had concerns with that could be considered for inclusion in the Roads Programme. Mr Mitchell advised that the Active Travel funding for 2023 had been announced and that this was multi-annual funding. The Members thanked Mr Mitchell for all the work carried out in the MD in delivering the 2022 programme and raised the following:

- Thanked Mr Mitchell and his team for the great work carried out on the footpaths in Crinkle, works on the Riverside Walk in Birr and at Broughal School. Welcomed the funding allocations under the Active Travel Investment Grants for works at Cloghan and Kilcormac. Enquired about the status in relation to extending footpaths from Kilcormac town to the Faithful Fields. The Members raised concerns in relation to the manner in which the Active Travel Funding is allocated, Mr Mitchel advised that although funding is announced every year the funding can be multi-annual for schemes so therefore it is not necessarily new funding that is being announced each year. The Members enquired if there would be any additional funding of public lighting this year.
- In relation to gritting of roads during bad weather the Members advised that there are a number of schools in rural areas that we need to look to assist during

bad weather. They also enquired about the proposal of salt being provided in community bins for bad weather and if there was any update in relation to this. They also enquired if further routes could be included for salting in the Winter Maintenance Plan, Mr Mitchell advised that the Winter Maintenance Plan will be reviewed over the summer but that to cover the current routes are extremely time consuming as it is, he also advised that the MD have some mini gritters and they carry out salting works on trouble spots when we can.

- Concerns in relation to recent collisions between motorist and deer on the Lumcloon to Cloghan Road, Mr Mitchell advised that we can erect signs to warn motorists of the dangers and can contact National Parks and Wildlife Service for their guidance in relation to same.
- Welcomed the LIS funding and acknowledged the great work that is being carried out under this scheme, enquired if it would be possible to use these funds to clear the current list of applicants in the BMD area before another scheme is advertised as this MD has the biggest share of the road network to maintain.
- Raised concerns in relation to works that were carried out on the Seffin to Hillside Rd in Birr as it appears to be sinking, can we revert to the Contractor to rectify same, Mr Mitchell advised that under the conditions of the road opening licence granted we can go back to the Contractor about this.
- Members raised issues in relation to traffic congestion and shortage of available parking in the town of Birr, can the town be looked at as a whole in relation to this i.e. residents parking permits and upgrading of parking machines to allow for contactless payment to make it more convenient for people when parking.
- Members asked if a traffic count could be carried out on the Roscrea to Kinnitty Road as this is now being used as a main route by cars and HGV's, and maybe improvement works can be carried out on it. The Members also raised the issue of resurfacing on rural roads can people be notified as far in advance as possible when this is being done. Mr Mitchell advised that the MD are in contact with the Communications Officer in OCC to advertise closures on social media and in the press where possible and VMS signage is also used.
- The Members also raised the issue of dips being left at the side of roads once they have been resurfaced and also the length of time it is taking to get line markings on roads once the resurfacing has been carried out, Mr Mitchell advised that dips should not be left at the side of roads and that we will take a look at the particular area in question and remediate same.
- The Members enquired about the Safe Routes to School funding what would this cover and are the footpaths at Cuba Ave in Banagher included in this, Mr Mitchell advised that the fund is there to develop a design but does not cover the capital works.
- The Members enquired about the Local Transport Plan for Birr, what pedestrian crossings are going to be included, the need for bicycle stands and a bus shelter for the town. Highlighted a couple of problem areas in the town such as Newbridge Street for parking, lack of footpath from High Street up past Hollypark a very popular walking route but very dangerous with no path, and also the footpaths from Syngefield to the graveyard at Clonoghill are in a poor condition.

Any Other Business:

1. The Members expressed their shock and disappointment at the

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: