

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR  
HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021 IN BIRR CIVIC  
OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 5.00 P.M.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Stephane Duclot, DOS, Mr  
John Mitchell Birr MD, Ms  
Monica Cleary, Mr John  
Cunningham Housing Services,  
Ms Mary Hussey Environment  
and Water Services and Ms D  
Molloy Meetings Administrator.

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021**

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Dooley the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021**

On the proposal of Cllr Claffey and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Birr MD held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Carroll the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 were adopted.

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

The Members were advised that only one Section 254 licence had been applied for and granted in the MD and that was in Birr in relation to outdoor dining.

**Environment and Water Services Report**

Ms Mary Hussey, SEE Environment and Water Services presented an update report to the Members, the Members thanked her for the report and raised the following.

- Flooding at Portavolla in Banagher, what is the current position in relation to works to alleviate this problem, the Members were advised that CCTV and camera work had been carried out on the network and this was currently being reviewed to try and find solutions to eliminate the problem.
- The Members raised the issue of Derelict Buildings and enquired if it was possible to contact the owners of these buildings to ask them to paint them or carry out works on them, Ms Hussey advised that derelict buildings are looked after by the Planning Section and stated that she would talk to planning in relation to same.

- Welcomed the works carried out in the old graveyard in Clonoghill in Birr and also congratulated the group of volunteers that are looking after the new graveyard in Clonoghill, welcomed the fact that the CCTV cameras in Clonoghill cemetery seem to be working very effectively. The meeting was also advised that Rath Cemetery now has a community group formed to look after the burial grounds and thanked the Environment section for their assistance with same.
- The Members raised the issue of illegal dumping and the issues arising throughout the MDs, and also dumping at bottle banks, the Members enquired if CCTV could be provided at various locations. The Members also raised the issue of providing extra bins in towns, they were advised that the issue of bins being provided in towns are providing a problem as people are disposing of their domestic waste in them. The Members also enquired about the emptying of bottle banks and were advised that there is a schedule for same which can be circulated to them. The Members also enquired if it would be possible to have a conversation with fast food outlets within the MD in relation to the amount of rubbish being disposed from their premises. Ms Hussey also advised that in conjunction with the Housing Section they are writing to householders to provide evidence of how they are disposing of domestic waste and there has been very good engagement from this process. The Members also advised that they did not think that the issuing of Litter Fines were effective and would prefer if these cases could proceed directly to court.
- The Members thanked Ms Hussey for the provision of free litter pickers and rubbish bags being provided to clean up areas and felt that this was very effective.
- The Members raised the issue of dog fouling in towns and popular walking areas, could CCTV help with this issue?
- The Members suggested that for the next elections being held that a billboard system would be adopted within the towns and designated areas identified for displaying posters, Ms Hussey advised that they may be able to seek funding under the Litter Infrastructure Fund for same.
- The Members enquired about the difficulties there have been in the Moneygall/Dunkerrin area in relation to water in the last few years and they were advised that this is being reviewed by Irish Water.
- The Members enquired as to when the works on Birr WWTP would be complete and what capacity it would provide, Ms Hussey advised that they did not have an exact completion date and they she would revert with the details of the growth projection.

### **Housing Services Report**

Ms Monica Cleary, SEO Housing Services presented an update report to the Members, the Members thanked her for the report and raised the following:

- The Members raised the issue of the construction of the new houses at McAuley Drive, Birr and that some residents had some issues in relation to the construction traffic and was it possible that another entrance could be used to the site, they were advised that the Contractor on site was very responsive to

any issues raised by the residents and at present this was the only entrance to the site.

- The Members enquired if the Council are in a position to provide safe houses to victims of domestic abuse, they were advised that that Council work very closely with ODVC and TUSLA in relation to this matter.
- The Members enquired if the cost of construction had increased and were advised that Contractors are in short supply and that the cost of building materials has also increased so this is delaying the turnaround period for pre-lets.
- The Members enquired about the retrofitting scheme and how long it was envisaged it would be before all stock is complete, they were advised that it is costing between €20 – 30€ for each property and that over 2000 properties would need to be retrofitted so no date for completion is currently available.
- The Members raised the issue of DPGs on both own stock and private dwellings, they were advised that this issue needs to be discussed at SPC level as there are numerous applications for both schemes.
- The Members acknowledged that there are very few houses in the MD for private renting, and that the need to return vacant stock for reletting and also the promotion of the repair to lease scheme has to be a priority, they also enquired what the timeframe for direct construction projects was?
- The Members enquired about the audit of lands to be carried out to identify where housing could be constructed and also welcomed the proposal for provision of housing at the Rectory Lands.
- The Members expressed their thanks to the Housing Section for all the work being carried out at present in what was a very challenging time for providing housing.

### **Any Other Business**

1. The Members raised the issue of the Shannon Hotel premises in Banagher and the disrepair that it is in. The Members were advised that some work was being carried out on the roof of the building by OCC to make it safe for the public.
2. The Members raised the possibility of a Lifeguard being provided at the swimming pool at the Shannon in Banagher for the summer months, it was suggested that this could be funded in co-operation with Galway County Council as this area was on the borders of both counties.

The Meeting then concluded

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**