

**MINUTES OF MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
OF BIRR HELD IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 5.00
P.M. ON MONDAY 9th MARCH, 2020**

=====

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Frank Heslin, Director of Services, Mr John
Mitchell SEE, Ms Ann Dillon, OCC, Ms D
Molloy, Meetings Administrator.

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held in Committee on 13th January,
2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 13th January, 2020 were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13th January, 2020.

On the proposal of Cllr Claffey and seconded by Cllr Carroll the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 13th January, 2020 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held in Committee on 17th February,
2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr Claffey and seconded by Cllr Leahy the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 17th February were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Special Meeting held in Committee on 25th
February, 2020**

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Carroll the Minutes of the Special Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 25th February, 2020 were adopted.

Rectory Lands Masterplan

Mr Frank Heslin, DOS addressed the meeting and advised the Members that OCC is anxious to move forward with the preparation of the Masterplan for the Rectory Lands. He further advised that the HSE had been advised that the Members fully supported the exploration of the use of lands for a Primary Care Centre but no response has as yet been received from the HSE as he believes they may be waiting for further responses from other stakeholders. The Members raised again the issue of requesting an out of hours doctors service being made provision for in the plan. The Members agreed that this was now a matter between the HSE and other stakeholders and that the Council had made it known that they were willing to make the lands available for exploration by the HSE in relation to the suitability of the site for the Centre so no obstacles were being placed in the way of progression of the facility by OCC. The Members were anxious that the Masterplan would proceed in relation to housing and recreation and not be held up by the lack of progress being made with the Primary Care Centre. They further raised concerns in relation to any issue that may arise with traffic increase or congestion and asked that this be given careful consideration in the formation of the Masterplan. They also enquired how long was it envisaged it would be before progress was made on the site. Mr Heslin advised that all matters raised would be taken into consideration

and it would be hoped that the finalisation of the Masterplan would proceed without delay.

Roads Programme 2020

Mr John Mitchell, SEE presented the proposed Roads Programme for the year to the Members but advised that this could be subject to change as some roads in the area are still under water and they will have to be given priority once the extent of the damage to them has been determined. The Members thanked all the Birr MD staff for all their hard work carried out during the recent flooding, they welcomed the Roads Programme and raised the following:

- Enquired if additional funding could be applied for as a result of the damage caused to roads during the recent flooding, and had any contact been made with the OPW in relation to extra funding. Mr Mitchell advised that he is putting together a submission for the Dept based on the cost of the repair of the roads looking for extra funding.
- Advised that footpaths are in very poor repair and agreed that any money usually spent on estate management projects should be put towards the repair of footpaths in housing estates. Mr Mitchell advised that he would talk to the Housing Section in relation to the housing estate management money and he would write to the Dept requesting extra funding for the footpath network in the MD.
- Members requested that we look at the issues that are contributing to newer areas that are now flooding that had never flooded before and are not as a result of the flooding on the Shannon, look at opening drains that have been closed in and land management in general. The SEE agreed to look at same.
- Look to see if any money could be secured from the Just Transition fund for money to repair roads damaged by the floods that are on a peat based foundation and enquire if finance was made available from this source then could Bord Na Mona staff that are in danger of losing their jobs carry out this work. Mr Mitchell advised that trials are being done on peat based roads and that if funding was to become available from this source we would be prepared and in a position to apply for same.

Any Other Business

The Cathaoirleach and Members wished Mr Frank Heslin, DOS every best wish for his upcoming retirement and stated that it had been a pleasure to work with him and thanked him for all his hard work. Mr Heslin thanked the Members for their kind wishes and said it had been an honour and a privilege to work in Offaly County Council.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINSTRATOR

DATE: