

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER,
2020 IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.30 P.M.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Ann Dillon A/DOS, Mr John Mitchell SEE,
Ms Monica Cleary, SEO Housing Services OCC
and Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator.

Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 12th October, 2020.

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 12th October, 2020 were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th October, 2020.

On the proposal of Cllr Claffey and seconded by Cllr Ormond the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 12th October, 2020 were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the October meeting:

It was noted that at the October meeting a proposal had been presented to the Members which outlined a reduction of €100,000 in the allocation of funding to the MD for 2021. The Members strongly opposed this reduction and it was now noted that due to the announcement of government grants the allocation of €170,000 would be made available to the MD for 2021. The Members expressed their relief that this funding would remain in place as it helps to fund community projects within the MD.

Vote of Sympathy:

The Members extended a Vote of Sympathy to the Cahill family, Bulfin Park, Birr on the recent sudden passing of their son and brother Adrian.

Housing Progress Report:

Ms Monica Cleary, Housing Services OCC presented a progress report to the Members. The Members thanked her for the report and acknowledged the great work carried out by the housing staff over the past year, they then raised the following:

- Welcomed the Retrofit Project and enquired how long it would take before the work was carried out and were OPDs being prioritised for upgrading, the Members were advised that it was hoped that tenders would issue for the first phase in the next couple of weeks and that work would commence early in the new year.
- Enquired about existing vacant housing stock and wondered why it is taking so long to prepare these houses for reletting, the Members were advised that the availability of contractors to carry out the work is an ongoing problem.
- Is there any information from the Dept. in relation to an Affordable Housing Scheme, Ms Cleary advised that a scheme is expected but has not been released yet.

- Enquired about the progress of the masterplan for the Rectory Lands in Birr and urged for it to be moved forward without delay.
- The Members welcomed the local authority direct construction projects and enquired about the timelines involved in delivering same.

District Engineers Report

Mr Mitchell, SEE presented a progress report to the Members. The Members thanked Mr Mitchell and his staff for all their work carried out over the past year and raised the following:

- The Members welcomed all the works being carried out in towns and villages under the TVR and Clar schemes, they enquired about the commencement of works in The Green, Birr under the scheme and Mr Mitchell advised that it was hoped to progress the works in early 2021.
- Enquired about the survey that had been carried out on roads that are based on peat foundations, Mr Mitchell advised that an application for funding was being completed.
- Dog fouling is a major problem in towns and in popular walking spots, Mr Mitchell that he would liaise with the Environment Section in relation to same.
- The Members enquired if a link could be looked at between the school in Kilcormac and the Faithful Fields.
- Enquired about the works being carried out under the Housing Management Estate projects, Mr Mitchell advised that two projects had been completed to date.
- When will the work be carried out on the pedestrian crossing in Ferbane, and also some roads in the MD have no line markings, are there plans in place to address this?
- Could a site for the Community Garden be considered within the plans for the Rectory Lands?
- Welcomed footpath repairs that have been carried out and highlighted the need for all footpaths to be made accessible for disabled people.

Birr Destination Town Project:

Mr Mitchell advised the Members in relation to the Birr Destination Town Project that a report had been received from Failte Ireland based on a mystery visitors experience of a visit to Birr and was currently being considered. It was proposed to appoint a member of the MD to join the Birr Destination Town Steering Group and on the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Leahy it was agreed that Cllr Carroll would be appointed to same and that the other Members would be frequently updated in relation to the progress of the project.

Any Other Business

1. The Members requested that a letter be sent to Irish Water requesting a meeting to receive an update in relation to the proposed Parteen to Dublin pipeline.
2. The Members were advised that no formal response from their letter requesting a meeting with the HSE had been received. Some of the members advised that

they had received contact from the HSE advising that development of the Primary Care Centre at the Rectory Lands would not proceed and that other sites around the town were being considered. The Members stated that they were extremely disappointed with the current situation and unanimously agreed to seek an emergency meeting with the HSE to get clarification on the current position.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: