

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR
HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER, 2021 IN BIRR CIVIC
OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 3.45 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
Amanda Pedlow, Heritage
Officer OCC, and Ms D Molloy
Meetings Administrator.

Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 12th July, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 12th July, 2021 were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th July, 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Carroll the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 12th July, 2021 were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the July Meeting:

There were no matters arising from the July Meeting

Birr Destination Town Project Update

Ms Amanda Pedlow, Heritage Officer OCC update the Members in relation to the current situation with the Birr Destination Town Project.

The Members thanked Ms Pedlow for her presentation and raised the following:

- Complimented the works that are currently being carried out at The Green and the seamless way they are progressing with as little disruption as possible and great engagement with the Residents.
- The new proposed entrance to the Castle, was there previously an entrance at this location and Ms Pedlow advised that there had been an entrance at that location before, the Members also enquired as to when it was likely that the planning application for the new entrance would be submitted for consideration.

Ms Pedlow also updated the Members in relation to works that have proceeded on the Birr Courthouse in relation to the repairs to the roof and windows. The Members welcomed this news and complimented Birr 20:20 and Ms Pedlow for the great work that had been done to date to bring this project to fruition.

District Engineers Report

Mr John Mitchell presented a report to the Members outlining the works being carried out in the MD. The Members thanked him for his report and raised following:

- Congratulated Mr Mitchell and his team on the great work carried out over the past nine months.
- Welcomed the scheme at St Kierans NS Broughal under the CLAR funding.
- Enquired about the timeline proposed for the provision of foot paths in Crinkle and Mr Mitchell advised that a Contractor had been appointed and it was hoped to commence works this month.
- Enquired if we have any dates for the commencement of works at Harbour Rd, Banagher and how long the work will take, and there is any progress in relation to the problem with the sewerage and surface water at the same location. Mr Mitchell advised that it was proposed to commence this work over the next couple of weeks and in relation to the surface water and sewerage issue, IW and OCC have been on site to look at this problem with CCTV. The issue of parking at the post office in Banagher was also raised and Mr Mitchell advised that this was being looked at.
- The Members raised the issue of safety at the boys school in Ferbane and also the pedestrian crossing in this area. Mr Mitchell advised that there were discussions between the Gardai and the Roads section in relation to same, but it needed to be looked at further and a set down area may be the best solution.
- An issue with the road sinking on the Kinnitty road and where we are in relation to looking for funding for works on peat based roads. Mr Mitchell advised that sampling had been completed and that we had very good information in relation to same, a report is now ready to go back to the Dept and it may be an option to make an application through the Just Transition Fund. The Members requested that the DOS would write to the Commissioner to determine exactly how we can apply for funding under Just Transition.
- The Members welcomed the works being carried out under the LIS Programme and enquired if there was any possibility that there would be an increase in the CLAR funding, expressed disappointment that the school in Dunkerrin was unsuccessful for funding under the CLAR scheme. Also enquired as to when the TVR works in Shinrone were likely to commence and were advised that we are currently trying to firm up a start date with the Contractor.
- Is there any money available for works to playgrounds as the one in Birr needs some repair to surfacing and equipment, Mr Mitchell advised that there are currently plans to carry out works in playgrounds.
- Welcome the Kinnitty ORIS funding and other safety measures planned for the village.

Any Other Business

1. The Members raised the issue of the Shannon Hotel premises in Banagher and advised that they were delighted that the premises had been bought at auction, they

asked that the Council would intervene to insure that this premises was brought back to prominent activity in the town. Mr Duclot, DOS advised that a Masterplan was being prepared for Banagher at present and the hotel would be included in this.

2. The Members wished to extend their congratulations to Shane Lowry for his selection in the European Ryder Cup and stated that he is a great ambassador for Offaly on the world stage. The also wanted to congratulate and welcome the LOETB premises that had been opened in Birr and recognised that it is a great asset to the town.

The Meeting then concluded

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: