

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE HELD AT 4.00PM ON
THE 14th NOVEMBER 2019 IN THE TOWN HALL, TULLAMORE**

Present:

Cllr. F. Moran, (Cathaoirleach); Cllr. N. Feighery; Cllr. T. McCormack; Cllr. S. O'Brien; Cllr. D. Owens;
Cllr. K. Smollen

Apologies:

Cllr. D. Harvey

In Attendance:

Mr. T. Shanahan, Director of Services; Mr. J. Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. B. Kelly, Executive Engineer; Ms. M. Cleary, Senior Executive Officer, Housing; John Cunningham, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing; Mark Maken Finaly, A/Administrative Officer, Housing; Ms B. Corbet, Meetings Administrator.

Cllr. S. O'Brien requested to suspend the standing orders, this was seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery however it was felt unnecessary by the members as the issue could be discussed under Confirmation of Minutes.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

Cllr. S. O'Brien proposed the following amendment to the minutes of the Meeting of Tullamore Municipal District held on the 10th October, 2019. Cllr. O'Brien stated "there was uproar from businesses and the public concerning the slow progress of the streetscape works and the serious impact on businesses in the centre of the town. He also queried the width of the path way at the junction of Bridge St and Patrick St. He proposed that the works cease in mid-November to allow the town centre businesses to avail of the Christmas shopping window which is a vital part of their annual business.

AOB - Grass cutting

Cllr. S. O'Brien asked the District Engineer to investigate dumping and long grass at the entrance to Grand Canal Court. He also asked that the grass cutting in Arden View, Pearse Park and Marian Place continue so as to prevent problems with long grass in the spring."

Cllr. N. Feighery seconded the proposal with amendment together with the Minutes of Committee Meeting of Tullamore Municipal District held on the 10th October, 2019.

Thereafter a discussion took place in relation to item No. 4 of AOB in the Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 10th October, 2019. The members raised a number of issues incl.: concerns over completion of O'Connor Square, health and safety, budget, the benefit of the event to businesses, advertising campaign for Tullamore Town Centre, rates rebate. Cllr. T. McCormack outlined he had looked at cost saving measures and revised the budget to €17/18k.

Cllr. S. O'Brien proposed a vote to revoke the decision made at Meeting of Tullamore Municipal District held on the 10th October, 2019, this was seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen.

In favour: Cllrs. S. O'Brien and K. Smollen

Against: Cllrs. T. McCormack, F. Moran, D. Owens

Abstain: Cllr. N. Feighery

Absent: Cllr. D. Harvey

Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran declared the motion defeated.

Thereafter Cllrs. N. Feighery, F. Moran, K. Smollen and D. Owens agreed to bring forward motion proposed by Cllr. N. Feighery:

"That Tullamore Municipal District allocates a proportion of its discretionary fund to an advertising/ public relations campaign to be executed following the completion of street enhancement works"

The members discussed a number of issues including engaging professional services to promote Tullamore as a shopping destination and an advertising campaign. The members agreed that up to €5k would be allocated to Tullamore Chamber of Commerce for the promotion of Tullamore leading up to the Christmas period. Mr. T. Shanahan to liaise with Tullamore Chamber of Commerce with regards to an immediate promotional campaign.

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended and condolences expressed, to the families of: Tess Hand, Carton West, Tullamore; Michael Sweeney, 72 Marian Place, Tullamore; Mary Coleman, Plougastel Court & late of Horkans Hill, Westport, Mayo/Tullamore; Jimmy Dunne, 82 The Green, Clara; Noel Clancy, Knockowen Road, Tullamore; Kathleen Buckley, Ballykilmurray, Tullamore; Mary Fogarty, Killurin, Killeigh; Danny Cummins, Killurin, Killeigh; Paddy Molloy, Rahan Road, Tullamore; Patricia Kershaw, Lumcloon, Cloghan and all those in Tullamore MD who died since the last monthly meeting, on their recent bereavements.

2. Housing update

Ms. M. Cleary, S.E.O., presented the Housing Report, as circulated, to the members. The members welcomed the report and acknowledged the work of the housing staff, raising a number of issues incl.: exclusion of Part V housing units from Tenant Purchase Scheme, Raheen Clara, installation of pellet stoves under DPG, second funding allocation under DPG, repairs and funding for relets, turnaround time for vacant houses, budget for essential maintenance, Rebuilding Ireland Home loan, retrofit Bord na Mona, pre let repairs by local contractors, boundary fencing at Abbey Court and Heather Grove, HAP rent limits, discretion of HAP limits.

Ms. M. Cleary, in response, stated that Part V is currently excluded from the Tenant Purchase Scheme, Raheen, Clara will be a LA project, applicants cannot currently get a pellet stove under the DGP Scheme, however this is currently being reviewed, an increase in the budget for DPG will be sought, there are currently 10 houses in Tullamore awaiting allocation at various stages, there is a specific budget for housing repairs which will be finalised at annual Budget meeting, Rebuilding Ireland Home loan is a National Scheme and issues will be dealt with via SPC, awaiting final detail from Dept with respect to retrofit, there is currently a framework in place for pre let repairs, housing staff will liaise with any Contractor that would like to apply for the next framework, HAP limits would also be dealt with via SPC, there is discretion with HAP limits however only in very exceptional circumstances. Mr. J. Connelly to investigate issues in Abbey Court and Heather Grove

3. Regeneration Projects

(a) Tullamore Street Enhancement (ERDF/URDF)

Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. and Mr. J. Connelly updated the members on the Tullamore Street Enhancement Programme. The Street Enhancement works are progressing and daily communications with the traders continues. The members welcomed the report raising a number of issues incl.: priority to have west side of William St complete, resurfacing of William St, Church St and Patrick St, schedule of works for Columcille St to Kilbeggan Bridge, possible meeting with the Contractor, businesses and officials, Harbour Street remaining two way, 1916 plaque.

Mr. J. Connelly, in response noted that resurfacing works will take place in the new year, including Bridge St, Columcille St and the Patrick St, Harbour St and Distillery Lane junctions. Paving works will continue to Durrow Lane. Further works require additional URDF Funding, sewer works are required on Harbour St and Colmcille St therefore one way will be required, daily communications already on going with Contractor and businesses, 1916 plaque is being cantered in the footpath with stone sett surround.

(b) Clara and Ballycumber (TRVS)

Mr. B. Kelly also updated the members on Clara and Ballycumber Town & Village Renewal Schemes. Clara is well progressed and will be moving up to Church St. Ballycumber is also well progressed, working in conjunction with the Christmas Lights committee and on target for having poles ready the end of the month.

Mr. J. Connelly to liaise with Planning regarding green area at Silverdale.

4. Presentation of 1916 medals - Offaly Fire & Rescue Service serving in 2016.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran informed the members that all members of Offaly Fire & Rescue Service that were serving in 2016 will be presented with 1916 medals on Wednesday 20th November at 7pm in Tullamore Fire Station.

5. Visit of Delegation from Luzhou, China

Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. advised that a Delegation from Luzhou, China will visit on Saturday 14th December with a formal meeting on the morning of Monday 16th December in Tullamore Municipal District, further details to be confirmed.

6. Notices of Motion:

Cllr. T. McCormack

"That the MD of Tullamore look at putting in two disabled car parking spaces beside the Convent Entrance on Store Street"

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack seconded by Cllr. S. O'Brien.

Cllr. N. Feighery

"That Tullamore Municipal District extends its best wishes to Tullamore Society of St Vincent de Paul for its Annual Appeal"

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. N. Feighery seconded by Cllr. D. Owens. It was agreed to extend these wishes to all local and national charities.

7. Correspondance

Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran circulated to the member's correspondence received from the Mayor of Whitby in relation to Tullamore native Joseph Drumm.

The members agreed to issue a congratulatory letter to Mr. Drumm and his recent retirement and 90th birthday.

8. A.O.B.

Clara issues

Lighting at Heather Grove and Garrán an Chaisleáin, footpath at Millers Glade; Mr. J. Connelly to investigate same.

Tidy Towns

The members congratulated Tullamore on recent Tidy Towns award in addition to Ballycumber and Clara. The members also extended congratulations to Tullamore Rotary Club on Be Safe be Seen campaign.

Tullamore issues

Overgrown trees from Arden View to Arden Road; difficulty with briars from Spollenstown to O'Moore St; Mr. J. Connelly to investigate same.

Speeding at Cappincur Road and Blueball, Mr. J. Connelly advised speed ramps are not part of Offaly County Council's policy. Mr. J. Connelly to investigate surfacing and signage on Cappincur Road.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____