
Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tullamore
Held on Thursday 12th of December 2024 at 2.30pm in the Council
Chamber, Town Hall, Cormac Street, Tullamore

Present: Cllr. F. Moran (Cathaoirleach); Cllr. O. Bryant (Leas Cathaoirleach); Cllr. A. Masterson (r); Cllr. D. Harvey; Cllr. S. O'Brien

In Attendance: Mr. N. Gorman, Director of Services; Ms. M. Cleary, Senior Executive Officer; Mr. J. Connelly, District Engineer; Mr. K. O'Brien, Meetings Administrator; Mr. B. Pey, Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. N. Feighery

Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran suspended standing orders to acknowledge and thank Offaly County Council staff for their service during Storm Darragh. He acknowledged the challenging weather conditions for staff and thanked them for their work and the assistance provided. District Engineer Mr. J. Connelly stated that a significant number of trees had fallen across the district and that staff attended to these when it was safe to do so. He highlighted the cross-agency collaboration when dealing with such issues and thanked the ESB, EIR and Uisce Éireann for their cooperation and assistance. The members joined with the Cathaoirleach and thanked all the staff for the timely communications and feedback to the members and the public.

Cllr. S. O'Brien congratulated former Cllr. Tony McCormack on his election to Dáil Éireann and added commiserations to Cllr. Aoife Masterson who narrowly missed out on a seat. He stated they both represented themselves and the Municipal District of Tullamore well throughout the campaign.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The following minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. O. Bryant and seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey:

- *Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2024*
- *Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th November 2024*

2. Community & Culture Presentation

Mr. B. Pey provided a detailed presentation to members on the programmes and activities of the Community & Culture department that included:

- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and subcommittees.
- Partnerships and programmes.
- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028.
- Offaly Local Economic & Community Plan 2024-2029.
- Funding Schemes.
- Public Participation Network (PPN).
- Offaly Age Friendly County Programme & Strategy 2024 – 2029.
- Offaly Comhairle na nÓg.
- Pride of Place 2024.
- Offaly Sports Partnership.
- Arts and Culture.

The members welcomed the presentation and acknowledged the significant work and programmes that are delivered, particularly the success of PPN and Pride of Place programmes.

3. Regeneration Programme

Mr. J. Connelly provided a presentation that reviewed the various strategic plans for Tullamore. The members welcomed the report, raising several items, compliments and recommendations including:

- Greenway works at Convent View.
 - Bus Shelters for Killeigh and Mucklagh.
 - Srah Road.
 - Dillon Street.
 - Traffic enforcement – bus and loading bays.
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Mr. J. Connelly responded to queries raised by the elected members and agreed to follow up where appropriate.

4. Community Grants

Mr. K. O' Brien listed the applicants recommended by the Community Grants Sub-Committee. The allocation of grant funding was proposed by Cllr. S. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey and agreed.

5. AOB

The Cathaoirleach requested that the roadway at Raheen in Clara be investigated and stated large rocks needed to be removed from the verge and the footpath needs improving.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran noted that it was Mr. John Connelly, District Engineer, last MD meeting and that John will be retiring at the end of the year after 20 years of service to Offaly County Council. He acknowledged his outstanding commitment, work ethic, and particularly his foresight for projects. He paid special tribute to the manner that John worked with the elected members to achieve the best outcomes for the Municipal District. He added that he left many lasting developments throughout the district and thanked him and wished him and his family well. Each of the members joined with the Cathaoirleach in wishing John and his family good health and a happy retirement. They highlighted John's major contribution to various schemes, citing the Tullamore Street Enhancement project as an example of John's outstanding work. They thanked John for the courtesy he had always shown to the members, his availability to take and return calls and for his follow-up to their various enquiries.

Director of Services. Mr. N. Gorman thanked John, on behalf of the management team, for his service. He said though he himself is new to the Council, a recent walk around the town with John discussing ongoing and future projects and enhancements had clearly demonstrated John's enthusiasm for his work and the town.

Mr. Connelly thanked the members for their kind remarks. He said he truly enjoyed his time as District Engineer and felt very fortunate to have been involved in so many projects. He thanked the elected members, OCC management, the team of engineers and technicians, administrative and outdoor staff for all their support, stating that it really is a team effort to get the various projects and work done.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date:
