

Minutes of December Meeting of the Municipal District of Piltown

Venue: Meeting Room, Ferrybank Area Office

Meeting Date: 7th December, 2016 at 10am

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Ger Frisby

Present: Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty, Melissa O'Neill, Pat Dunphy, Eamon Aylward and Tomas Breathnach

In Attendance: Tim Butler, Director of Services, Kevin Hanley, Meetings Administrator, Ian Gardner, Area Engineer and Laura Murphy, A/Staff Officer

Welcome: Cllr. Frisby welcomed Tim Butler, Director of Services and all to the meeting.

Outset: Cllr. Frisby expressed condolences on his own behalf and on behalf of all the Members to the Grant family on the death of Sean Grant, retired Council employee and also to the Walsh family on the death of Denis Walsh, Piltown following a road traffic accident. A minute's silence was observed.

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of monthly meeting held 2nd November 2016, proposed by Cllr. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Aylward and agreed.

Minutes of Draft Budget Plan meeting held on 2nd November 2016, proposed by Cllr. Breathnach and seconded by Cllr. Doherty and agreed.

Matters Arising

Waterford Boundary Review – Cllr. Doherty requested an update. T Butler, Director of Services replied that the Boundary Commission's report is expected to be published early next year. A discussion followed with contributions received from all Members. Members were in agreement that if the report recommends an amendment to the existing boundary, this will have to be further opposed through the Houses of Oireachtas.

New Ross / Waterford Greenway – K Hanley informed the meeting that public consultation process will commence on Friday, 9th December 2016. Cllr. Doherty enquired if Council staff will be available to meet members of the public to discuss the proposed Greenway. T Butler confirmed that Council staff will be available, if required. Cllr. Breathnach asked if an allowance was made to public consultation time line to take into account the Christmas period. T Butler said the closing date for submissions is extended to reflect this.

Withdrawal of Plastic Bag Collections – Cllr. Aylward referred to yesterday's announcement by Minister Denis Naughten that pay-by-weight tariff's will be postponed until middle of next year and asked for clarification regarding same. T Butler replied that the Council has not received a circular on this matter as yet but will clarify the position when notification is received.

Dungooley – Cllr. Dunphy asked if consultants have been appointed to assess flooding issues in the Dungooley and Fanningstown areas. I Gardner replied that contract documents have to be prepared however he hopes that consultants will be appointed by February. It is expected that the assessment report will be available in April.

Ferrybank Playground – Cllr. O'Neill asked for an update. T Butler said it is expected that this project will go out for public consultation (Part 8) early next year.

Ferrybank Christmas Lights – Cllr. Frisby thanked and congratulated all involved in the organisation of Christmas lights for Ferrybank and complimented the enjoyable evening had by all who attended the official switching on of the lights on Friday evening last, 2nd December.

Abbey Community College – Cllr. Frisby paid compliments to Abbey Community College on the official opening of the new school extension by Minister Richard Bruton on Friday 2nd December last.

Roadworks Update

I Gardner circulated an information sheet detailing progress on the Roadworks Programme to date and briefed Members on same. Members thanked IG for his report and requested clarification on some items. Cllr. Doherty asked if General Operatives have been appointed to the Ferrybank area. IG advised that the recruitment process is on-going at present. Members thanked and complimented IG on works completed this year. Cllr. Aylward asked for an update regarding safety issues at level crossing at Garrandarragh. IG advised he has written to Iarnród Éireann on this matter however he has not received a reply as yet. Cllr. Doherty noted that waiting times appear to have increased at this location and asked that this be examined. Cllr. Aylward agreed and asked that the Council write to Iarnród Éireann regarding this; seconded by Cllrs. Frisby and O'Neill. T Butler said the Council

will write to IE/CIE to ask for a single point of contact to raise issues relating to County Kilkenny. Cllr. Breathnach put forward that a schedule of organisations should be put together and a mechanism established to meet each agency on a yearly basis. This was seconded by Cllr. Dunphy.

Cllr. Breathnach made reference to additional funding of €30k that will be received in 2017 for maintenance of amenities; he asked that Members meet to discuss the utilization of these funds. IG noted that Claire Goodwin, Parks Sections did a report outlining some options for the approach roads to Waterford. Cllr. O'Neill reminded Members of her motion to full Council requesting 15% of funds allocated to Kilkenny under Parks and Open Spaces Maintenance be re-directed to the Municipal District of Piltown and called on all Members to support the motion.

Speed Limit Review Update

K Hanley circulated an update to Members on the Speed Limit Review.

N25 New Ross Bypass Update

K Hanley circulated a report to Members detailing current progress on the N25 New Ross Bypass Bridge project.

Bye-Laws Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor

T Butler informed Members that a proposal to re-enact the 2013 Kilkenny County Council Bye-Laws will come before the full Council meeting in December however he noted there are no changes to the bye-laws prohibiting the consumption of intoxication liquor to the Municipal District of Piltown.

Nomination for the Naming and Commemorative Memorial Assessment Committee

K Hanley invited nominations for the Naming and Commemorative Memorial Assessment Committee. Cllr. Doherty proposed herself and was seconded by Cllr. Dunphy. Cllr. O'Neill was proposed by Cllr. Aylward and was seconded by Cllr. Frisby. A vote of Members was taken which resulted in three votes for each nominee. Cllr. Frisby as Cathaoirleach had the casting vote and he voted in favour of Cllr. O'Neill. Cllr. O'Neill was therefore selected as MPD's nomination on the Naming and Commemorative Memorial Assessment Committee.

Later, Cllr. O'Neill requested that the Naming and Commemorative Memorial Assessment Committee prioritize the naming of the N25 New Ross Bypass Bridge. K Hanley advised that the committee will be meeting in March.

Request for Deputation from Owing National School for next meeting

K Hanley told members that a request for reception of deputation at a Municipal District of Piltown Meeting was received from Owing National School who wish to make a submission on traffic management and road markings in Owing village. It was agreed to accept the deputation. Members discussed issues relating to speed, road linings, ramps, public lighting and safety concerns at Owing village. IG recommended that a speed survey be carried out to identify specific issues at this location. It was noted that currently there are a number of speed surveys due to be completed. Cllr. Breathnach suggested that priority be given to surveys near educational facilities. Cllr. Frisby asked if these surveys could be contacted out. IG replied that he will look into this.

CLÁR Funding

T Butler told members that the Council received c. €220k from CLÁR to carry out safety works to Schools/Community facilities in County Kilkenny, including three locations in the MDP. He explained that this additional funding will allow for existing monies to be used elsewhere.

Any Other Business

- a) **Access Bridge into Parkstown, Glenmore** – Cllr. Doherty asked if the Council would consider carrying out improvement works to this bridge. IG replied he looked at this bridge and recommended that works could be considered under a CIR scheme.
- b) **Speeding through Village of Owing** – this item was discussed under 'Request for Deputation' above.
- c) **Listerlin (Mullinarrigle) Dangerous Junction** – Cllr. Doherty asked if anything can be done to increase safety at this junction. IG replied that they had previously tried to carry out significant junction improvement works at this location but were unable to acquire the land necessary for the work. IG said that he will look at improving road markings and signage at this location.

- d) Flooding at Kearns, Dunkitt** – Cllr. Dunphy expressed his frustration at the lack of progress in resolving flood issue at Kearns, Dunkitt. IG told the meeting that the Council have concerns about the TII’s proposals to remedy the issue and that this matter needs to be further discussed. T Butler mentioned that if the flooding issue at Dunkitt Bridge can be resolved, this will assist with the issue at Kearns. He told Members that the Council is working on resolving these flooding issues. Cllr. Breathnach acknowledged the work carried out to date and also all the people who have co-operated to resolve this issue.
- e) Dangerous Parking in Piltown** – Cllr. Dunphy highlighted the issue of dangerous parking at Centra, Piltown and advised that the owner intends to apply for planning permission to develop parking facilities to alleviate the problem.

Members discussed road safety issues and concerns regarding the N24 Piltown Bypass, particularly in light of recent fatality at Ink-Bottle junction and spoke about the upset in the local community and the community’s determination to have these matters dealt with. T Butler said that the Council are keen to address safety issues and when a solution is established, it will have the full backing of the Executive and Council. He also said the Council will do all it can to secure funding to address the safety issues. Members discussed possible solutions to deal with safety concerns along Piltown Bypass route. T Butler said that a safety review on this route is due to be carried out again.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach told the meeting that the South East Patients Advocacy Group would like to arrange a meeting with the Municipal Districts of Piltown, Carrick-on-Suir, New Ross and Tramore & West Waterford City Electoral Area.

Cllr. Doherty gave mention to public lighting not working along N25, approach to New Ross. IG will contact Airtricity Utility Solutions who are the Council’s maintenance contractor for public lighting.

Cllr. Frisby acknowledged the good debate and work done throughout the year and wished everyone and their families a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1st February 2017 at 10:00am.

A joint meeting with Tramore and Waterford City East, in City Hall, Waterford is scheduled for the afternoon of 1st February 2017.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____