**MINUTES OF DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 11th DECEMBER, 2023 IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICER, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.15 P.M.**

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| **MEMBERS PRESENT:**  **APOLOGIES:** | **Cllrs P Ormond, J Carroll**  **J Clendennen, C Claffey and J Leahy**  **Cllrs E Dooley** |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | **Ms A Dillon, DOS, Mr J Mitchell, SEE, Sgt. Alan Kerins, An Garda Síochána, Ms Lourda Giles, A/SEO, Community & Culture, & Ms L Smyth Hogan, Meetings Administrator** |

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 13th November, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Leahy and seconded by Cllr Ormond the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 13th November, 2023 were adopted.

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13th November, 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Leahy the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held 13th November, 2023 were adopted.

1. **Matters Arising from October Meeting.**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Community Policing Policy Plan – Sgt Alan Kerins**

Sgt Alan Kerins advised the members of the details of the Birr Community Policing Plan as part of the Laois Offaly Garda Division Policing Plan and what can feed into the plan to strengthen communication with the Municipal District.

* The Members acknowledged the work of the two Community Gardaί for their work with the young people, the importance of visibility is great to see and will assist in keeping people obeying the law.
* The Members acknowledged the excellent resources on the Main Street, Birr when it commenced there was one member of staff now there are three.
* The Members requested if more can be done with the 18 – 21 year olds as they also needs assistance. The Members were advised that there was no model in place at present for this age group of youths.
* The Members raised concerns that community alert groups need assistance and if anything can be done to improve this locally. The Members were advised that a local community group had placed emphasis on the marking of machinery on farms and it was a success.
* The Members enquired about CCTV legislation and were advised that this legislation is not in place at present and that the data controllers are not clear in the legislation. When the CCTV legislation is in place Emmet Square will be a priority.
* The Members were advised the New Sectoral Policing will allow for allocating Gardaί an estate and to be responsible to maintain a presence for that area.
* The Members were advised that the Birr Community Policing Group needs to have a combined community.
* The Members noted that we were fortunate to have low levels of crime in the area. The Members outlined that when the public contact the gardai that they expect to get their local garda station, that there were concerns that stations could close, and the replacement of retired staff was concerning and if there was a way to maintain cover in the stations to keep reassurance in the community. The Members were advised that succession planning was an issue and plans don’t always work out to keep cover in stations following retirement.
* The Members were advised that day to day calls is dealt with locally and when specifics are required for an accident these calls are transferred to the call centre.

1. **Community and Culture Update – Lourda Giles**

Ms Lourda Giles, A/SEO, Community & Culture Section, OCC gave a presentation to update the Members in relation to Community & Culture for 2023 and activities carried out throughout the year. The Members thanked Ms Giles for her very informative report, welcomed how much the section had grown since it was established in 2014.

* The Members noted that the scope of Community and Culture was vast and any time a support scheme is launched there are huge volume of applications.
* The Members expressed it was a pleasure to work with the staff of Community & Culture, there are huge expectations for groups that funding can be got and hope that this can be maintained.
* The Members noted that it was a great achievement for Ballyboy to win Pride of Place and expressed their congratulations and to all the community who have participated in Offaly.

1. **Any Other Business**

The Members expressed sincere sympathy to the Harte Family on the passing of John Harte RIP who was a former Councillor with Birr Town Council.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CATHAOIRLEACH MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**