**MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING OF BIRR M.D. HELD ON MONDAY 14TH APRIL 2025 AT BIRR CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.30 P.M.**

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| **MEMBERS PRESENT:** | **Cllrs P Ormond, E Clendennen, J Leahy, A Hennessy – Kennedy, H Egan, S Maher,**  |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | **Ms A Dillon, DOS, Mr B Keenaghan SEE, Mr L O’Reilly Sports Partnership, Ms M Flynn AO Birr MD, and Ms. D Molloy Meetings Administrator** |

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 10th March 2025**

On the proposal of Cllr Leahy and seconded by Cllr Egan the Minutes of Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on the 10th of March, 2025 were adopted.

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 10th March 2025**

On the proposal of Cllr Hennessy-Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on the 10th of March, 2025 were adopted.

1. **Matters arising from March Meeting.**

There were no matters arising from the March meeting.

1. **Sports Partnership Report**

Mr. Liam O’Reilly Programme Manager Sports Partnership OCC presented the Members with an update in relation to the structure, funding and scope of works within their remit. The Members thanked him for his informative presentation and the great work being carried out and raised the following:

* The Members raised the issue of lack of facilities for smaller sports categories in the town of Birr e.g. badminton, basketball and that these groups are moving to areas outside of the town, the boxing club is also looking for a premises.
* The Members complimented the inclusivity that is being driven by promoting minority sports in schools to allow students with different abilities to take part.
* The Members acknowledged the staff working within the section, how helpful they are and the great assistance that is provided to clubs and groups in completing applications for Sports Capital Funding Grants.
* The Members acknowledged the classes and sports e.g. boccia and chair yoga that are being provided for older members of the community and also the great support to the 5k Road Race series in Offaly.
1. **Briefing in relation to No Mow May**

Mr Brian Keenaghan, SEE updated the Members in relation to the areas in the MD that have been selected for the No Mow May Initiative. He advised that the grass would be cut at the end of this period and this would be widely communicated to the public through advertising, website, social media and signage. The Members thanked the SEE for his update and stated that they felt that lack of communication with the public was an issue in the past and once reassurance was given that areas would be tended to once May was over would ease the public’s concerns.

1. **Launch of Tidy Towns Competition 2025**

Ms. M Fynn-Kenny advised the Members that the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Dara Callery T.D. together with Luke Hanlon MD of Supervalu officially launched the 2025 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition on Monday 24th March 2025. She further advised that in the 2024 Competition there were 11 groups that participated from the Birr MD with Birr securing a gold medal and Kilcormac securing an endeavor award. The Meeting was advised that there is a meeting being hosted in Birr Civic Offices on Tuesday 11th April, 2025 by Community Section in OCC and all Tidy Towns groups in the MD have been invited to attend. An adjudicator from Tidy Towns will attend to provide information regarding what is required during the judging process.

The Members acknowledged the great work being carried out by Tidy Towns within the MD and their achievements to date but felt that the ongoing problem with littering is hindering their efforts. It was also noted that support needs to be given to the groups from the Council in order for them to maintain the high standards already achieved. The Members agreed to host an event to mark the occasion of Birr Tidy Towns being awarded a gold medal in last year’s competition.

The Meeting then concluded.

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

 **CATHAOIRLEACH MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**