**MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER, 2024 IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.30 P.M.**

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| **MEMBERS PRESENT:** | **Cllrs P Ormond, J Clendennen, J Leahy, A Hennessy – Kennedy, H Egan, S Maher,** |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | **Ms A Dillon, DOS, Mr J Mitchell SEE, Mr Ray Bell Broadband Officer, D Molloy Meetings Administrator** |

**Vote of Sympathy:** The Cathaoirleach extended a vote of sympathy on behalf of the Members to Mr Derek Fanning of the Midland Tribune on the recent death of his mother Sheila.

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 9th September, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr Clendennen and seconded by Cllr Hennessy-Kennedy the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on the 9th September, 2024 were adopted.

1. **Matters arising from September meeting.**

There are no matters arising from the September meeting.

1. **Presentation in relation to Digital Broadband – Mr Ray Bell, Broadband Officer**

Mr Ray Bell, Broadband Officer presented a Digital and Broadband update to the Members. He outlined the aims of the National Broadband Plan and where we are in Offaly in relation to that plan. He advised that OCC continuously works with all Telecommunication providers in relation to the roll out of high-speed Broadband and 5G in Offaly. He also outlined how digital skills and training are being provided in the community and industry and the work carried out in schools. The Members thanked Ray for his extensive and informative presentation and raised the following:

* The Members commended the great work carried out to date in bringing broadband to rural areas.
* The Members raised the issue of Contractors carrying out work in the area and asked that they would contact householders before commencing.
* Complimented the works carried out in schools with the VEX Robotics and promoting STEM within our schools.
* The Members enquired about the undergrounding of cables, they noted that work had been carried out getting ESB cables buried and would it be possible for Eir to do same, Mr Bell advised if ducting is already available it will be used for cables underground, putting in poles is easier and more budget friendly for the providers.

1. **General Municipal Allocation 2025**

Ms Ann Dillon, DOS, presented the proposed 2025 General Municipal Allocation to the Members and it was noted that it remained at €192,000 the same allocation as 2024.

The Members considered the General Municipal Allocation for 2025 in the proposed amount of €192,000 and asked that the DOS would revert to the CE and advise that they are not willing to accept same and seek an increase in the fund in line with inflation.

1. **Any Other Business**

Mr John Mitchell, SEE advised the Members that funding had been secured for 7 CLAR projects in the MD out of 11 applications that had been submitted. The Members welcomed the funding and commended the great work that was being carried out under the CLAR schemes.

The Meeting then concluded.

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**