

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR
HELD IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR
AT 5.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER, 2019**

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs E Dooley, P Ormond, J Carroll
J Clendennen, C Claffey and J Leahy

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Frank Heslin, Director of Services, Mr John Mitchell SEE, Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 9th September, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. Clendennen the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr Municipal District held on 9th September, 2019 were adopted.

Presentation from Birr 20:20

Mr Salters Sterling and Ms Bernie Fanneran from Birr 20:20 addressed the meeting. They outlined the history of the formation of the group post the abolition of Birr Town Council in 2014 and the aims and objectives it set out to achieve. They also gave a very detailed briefing on the current activities of the group and their aims for the future for the enhancement of Birr. The Members thanked them for their very informative presentation and congratulated them on the great work being carried out, they assured them that the group would have the full support of Birr MD going forward.

General Municipal District Allocation for 2020

Mr Frank Heslin advised the Members that he wished to bring to their attention for discussion the General Municipal Allocation for 2020. Mr Heslin further advised that the proposed allocation in the Draft Budget for Birr MD is the same as 2019, the Members were free to accept or look to amend this allocation and this would then be taken into account when framing the overall Draft Budget in November. The Members advised that pending the overall budget that they would like to look for an increase of the figure from €170,000 and on the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Clendennen it was proposed that a 10% increase would be sought.

Roads Progress Report

Mr J Mitchell SEE presented a roads update. He advised that the majority of the Programme had been completed and that Winter Maintenance would commence in the coming week. The Members thanked him for the update and raised the following:

- Complimented the council on the works carried out so far and thanked all the staff. The Members were disappointed to note that Offaly had been named in a report as having one of the worst network of roads in the county, and while they acknowledged that we are at a disadvantage because so many of our roads are based on peat foundations, enquired where we are at with the site investigations that are being carried out. Mr Mitchell advised that investigations are ongoing and that hopefully based on findings we may be able to apply for extra funding.
- Enquired when works are to start in Green St and were advised that these works would commence in 2020 and OCC are hopeful of securing further funding.
- The Members expressed some disappointment at the locations selected for new public lights and had hoped that Woodfield in Birr near the soccer club would

have been selected as it had been raised in the chamber on a number of occasions, Mr Mitchell advised that these were only one off lights at identified black spots and that a larger scheme would be required to address areas like Woodfield. The Members further enquired as to when LED lighting would be introduced to Birr, Mr Mitchell advised that he would have to talk to the road section in OCC in relation to same.

- The Members welcomed the commencement of the winter maintenance programme and raised the problem of dangers in urban areas ie. hospital and schools, they were further advised that roads within local areas would be looked after with mini gritters. Submissions have been made to the SPC in relation to winter maintenance.
- The Members raised the issue of road safety concerns in Banagher and asked that a full audit be carried out on same and that the Gardai had raised issues in relation to same and particularly at Corrigans corner, Mr Mitchell advised that he would be happy to meet with the Garda and the members concerned on site to look at their concerns and discuss same. The Members also highlighted the need for further street lights at Cuba Avenue.
- The Members enquired about how many LIS works had been carried out and when will we be in a position to accept new applications for this scheme and can any extra funding be applied for.
- Issues in relation to the pedestrian crossing at Emmett Square and wondered if the relocation of a crossing was being looked at as it is very dangerous crossing the road at the Emmett St end of Emmett Square, Mr Mitchell to talk to road design on same and look at traffic calming measures
- Enquired about the position in relation to the remedial works at Cloghan traffic lights and were advised that this was being addressed this week in conjunction with a new paving scheme that was being carried out.
- Raised the need for a footpath to be provided from Kilcormac out to the Faithful Fields as it is very dark in the evenings now and there are no lights.
- Asked that Pullough bridge be included for consideration under the Bridge Improvement Scheme.
- Raised issues in relation to speeding in towns and also at the Idle Corner, the Members enquired if perhaps ramps could be relooked at again as a preventative measure in 2020. Damaged signs are also a big problem that needs to be looked at. Mr Mitchell agreed to review same.

Any Other Business

The members enquired as to the progress of the transitional team that was set up to plan for Bord na Monas exit from peat production. After a brief discussion it was noted that a discussion on same was to be held at the full OCC meeting to be held on the following Monday.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINSTRATOR

DATE: