

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR
HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 12th APRIL 2021 IN BIRR CIVIC
OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.00 P.M.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Stephane Duclot, DOS, Mr John Mitchell Birr MD, Ms Mary Hussey, Environment and Water Services, Mr Dermot Egan Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator and Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator.

Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 8th March, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Carroll the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 8th March, 2021 were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 8th March, 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr Clendennen and seconded by Cllr Claffey the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 8th March, 2021 were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the March meeting:

There were no matters arising from the March meeting.

Environment and Water Services Report

Ms Mary Hussey of Environment and Water Services OCC delivered an update to the Members on the work being carried out at present within her section, the Members thanked her for her report and raised the following:

- The ongoing issue of dumping at Clonoghill cemetery in Birr, Ms Hussey advised that it was proposed to install CCTV cameras at this location within the next couple of weeks.
- In relation to the Climate Action Steering Group what sort of tangible ideas are being forward for this, Ms Hussey advised that there have been lots of projects and goals identified e.g. Active Travel, Litter Management, Flood Prevention, but she suggested that she could come back to the Members at another time to hold an information session in relation to this.
- Acknowledged the great work that was carried out during National Spring Clean week both by staff and volunteers in their communities, however they had serious concerns in relation to the amount of dumping that is going on at present and it seems to be increasing on a regular basis. What actions are being taken to address this. The Members feel that the fines under the Litter Act are too lenient and not enough of a deterrent and if people could be prosecuted under the Waste Management Act this would be more effective. They enquired if it is possible

for the Council to adopt their own bye-laws in relation to dumping and it was agreed that this would be raised at the next SPC meeting. Ms Hussey advised that Environment are currently sending out letters to householders enquiring as to how they are disposing of their refuse, and are working closely with the Housing Section to ensure that tenants of the Council are disposing of their refuse in a proper manner as outlined in their Tenancy Agreement.

- The Members acknowledged that investigations and surveys were carried out in Banagher on the sewer and surface water network and enquired as to where this was carried out and what were the results. Ms Hussey advised that these surveys had been carried out to investigate issues arising as a result of the high water table, she advised that some of these surveys still needed to be concluded. She acknowledged the issue of sewage at Portavolla in Banagher and advised that they are working to try and rectify the situation.
- The Members raised the issue of dog fouling in our towns becoming a major issue and enquired if more signage and bins could be provided to try and alleviate the problem, Ms Hussey advised that bins are not always the solution but that she would liaise with Mr Mitchell in relation to same. The Members also enquired as to how often the recycling bins are being emptied in towns as when they are full people are just leaving their rubbish beside them and some fines have been issued for this, Ms Hussey stated that they try to empty them as soon as they are full and sensors in bins are currently being trialled in the Edenderry Area under the Edenderry IOT scheme, and learnings may be applied to this.
- The Members enquired about the upkeep of our burial grounds for the coming season, and acknowledged the great work being carried out by Community Groups to keep them in good order, but that there was still some concern in relation to Dungar cemetery. Ms Hussey responded that when issuing community grants for the upkeep of burial grounds they try to spread them out as evenly as possible, however the budget for this is low for the whole county. She further advised that in relation to Dungar a meeting had been held previously in relation to this and she was waiting for the committee to contact OCC to move this forward.
- The Members enquired about the SLA between Irish Water and OCC and what this would mean for OCC staff and would it mean that the Council would have very little input in to Water Services in the future. Ms Hussey advised that IW want to end the SLA in 2022 instead of 2025 but we would have to await the outcome of the LRC discussions to see what the situation would be.

Healthy Offaly Presentation

Mr Dermot Egan, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator OCC gave a presentation to the Members and explained that following the adoption of the Healthy Offaly Plan in 2018 by the OLCDC Committee the “ Health Offaly Team” was established. The Healthy Ireland Fund supports initiatives that involve key national policies in relation to mental health, physical activity as well as many other areas to support health and wellbeing. The Members thanked Mr Egan for his very informative presentation and acknowledged the great work being carried out, they then raised the following:

- Will the physical fitness designed for schools now resume as the schools are reopened, Mr Egan advised that the programme will return and will now be delivered by the teachers and parents, no physical trainer will be visiting the schools.
- Welcomed the great work carried out by the Meals on Wheels Scheme and would this be continued in to the future, Mr Egan advised that the funding stream for this will end in December under Round 3 of the Healthy Eating Fund but it is hoped that funding will continue under Round 4 of the Programme.
- Acknowledged the great work that is being carried out by the Library Services and Birr Theatre and Arts Centre in delivering content online during what has been a very difficult year for both sectors.
- Welcomed the Grow It Yourself and Healthy Eating initiative and wondered what the uptake was like for this scheme, Mr Egan advised that he would revert to the Members with these details.

Any Other Business

1. The Members raised concerns in relation to the decommissioning of Shannonbridge Power Station. The Members agreed to draft a joint letter from the Cathaoirleach of OCC and the Cathaoirleach of Birr MD and request to meet with the ESB again at a Municipal District meeting

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: