

**MINUTES OF MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
OF BIRR HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 14TH MARCH, 2022 IN BIRR
CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.00 P.M.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Stephane Duclot, DOS, Mr John Mitchell,
Senior Executive Engineer, Birr MD, Ms Lisa
Smyth Hogan, A/ Meetings Administrator.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th February, 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Dooley the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 14th February, 2022 were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the February 2022 meeting:

There were no matters arising from the February meeting

ROADS PROGRAMME 2022

Mr John Mitchell outlined the Roads Program for 2022. The Road Improvement grant (road strengthening) is €3 million annually which is an 8% increase and the Roads Maintenance Grant budget is €850,000 annually an increase of 4%. It is envisaged to complete 30 kilometres of road strengthening and 35 kilometers of Road Surfacing will be completed in 2022. There is already an impact on prices as they have increased but was hopeful to deliver a full program as outlined based on tender prices and length of roads. Additional funding streams also would be Active Travel, Town and Village Renewals and Climate Adaption. The council has received new money €800,000 to complete repairs on Peat Roads on Regional Roads for long term repair. The council will be advised in relation to the Local Improvement Scheme allocation in April and the Community Involvement Scheme(CIS) funding is decreased by 50%.

The members thanked John Mitchell for his outline of the Roads Programme 2022.

Cllr Dooley wondered why the CIS funding is cut 50%? The Peat Road repair money is this for the peat community and if so the priority should be in the Birr Municipal District as we have the largest number of kilometres of roads in this district. Mr John Mitchell advised Cllr Dooley that in recent years we benefited greatly from other Local Authorities not being able to spend their allocation and that the 50% reduction is our normal allocation.

Cllr Carroll acknowledged that despite it being a small amount of roads to address that the programme was well spread out over the Birr Municipal District. In relation to the Peat Foundation money if consideration can be given to the Birr to Kinnitty Roads at Clonbrone it would be a road repaired long term. In the previous 12 months there was no further LIS applications received and can the members be updated on the current list. Mr John Mitchell noted the request advised Cllr Carroll that he will revert to him on the status of the current list.

Cllr Clendennen expressed disappointment on the 50% reduction on CIS funding and that this would have a huge impact on the agricultural community. He wondered if we should send a letter as a Local Authority to have these funds reinstated. Cllr Clendennen wondered if something can be done about HGV's on small roads as sat navs were taking them on these roads unnecessarily – possibly signs saying No Large Vehicles. Cllr Clendennen also wondered about the impact of inflation and roads falling into disrepair was there adequate money set aside. Mr John Mitchell advised Cllr Clendennen that there are a large number of HGV's on our road network that if the members can let us know which roads and we can do an analysis of traffic on it. Mr John Mitchell also advised that there is no additional contingency funding. The Roads Programme is our annual budget, should any weather event occur in the past we have received additional funding when these occurred. In relation to the Roads Programme 2022 the cost of materials could have an impact on the budget.

Cllr Claffey wondered in relation the programme which section of the Harbour Road was referred to in the programme. Mr John Mitchell advised Cllr Claffey that the section of road referred to was where Harbour Road connects back to Curnavarnagh

Cllr Leahy raised the footpaths in Kilcormac as a priority. Mr John Mitchell noted Cllr Leahy's comment and advised him that the Municipal District will be happy to work on the footpaths via our own resources or alternatively under the Active Travel programme.

Cllr Peter Ormond noted the standard of works completed is very high and the Roads Programme is a balanced programme of works. There would be a worry with regards to tender process and materials costs. Through the various schemes, programmes, contractors and our own staff we have the capacity to deliver most of the work and this would usually be done in the summer months May to July. Mr John Mitchell advised Cllr Ormond that delivery of the programme would be a challenge and it was anticipated to commence the programme of works in April.

Estate Management Fund

Mr John Mitchell presented the proposed programme of spend for the Estate Management Fund 2022 €30,000. The members agreed the Estate Management Fund proposed by: Cllr Clendennen and Seconded by Cllr John Carroll.

Any Other Business

War in Ukraine – Red Cross

Cllr Leahy noted in relation to the war in Ukraine, the Red Cross are inviting Irish people to take Ukrainians into their homes. If it was possible to write to the Red Cross and invite them to talk to the members. If it was possible to discuss with the GAA at National Level with regards dressing rooms if they can be revamped into bedsits until they get settled into their appropriate community. People want to help but are not aware to what are the Pro's and Con's to helping and what information is available.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: