

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022 IN CHARLEVILLE ROOM, ARAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE AT 4.30 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 S Duclot, DOS, Mr J Mitchell, SEE Birr MD,  
Ms M Hussey SE Water & Environment Services  
OCC & Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.**

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Dooley the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 were adopted.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the October 2022 meeting:**

There were no matters arising.

**Water and Environment Services Progress 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 Members welcomed the roll out of the public bike hire scheme in Tullamore and enquired if it was envisaged that this would be rolled out in other areas as well. The Members were advised that this was initially a 6 month pilot programme and could be reviewed after that time. The Members stated that if this was to be rolled out in Birr that infrastructure like further bike stands would have to be provided, they were advised that this would be looked at under the Local Transport Plans and funding may be available through the Active Travel programme.
- Welcomed the roll out of 10 solar powered bins in Offaly and enquired if there were plans for the bins to be provided in any other areas, Ms Hussey advised that these bins had been funded by a grant scheme and that they are relatively expensive to purchase but other areas could be looked at. Also enquired if any discussions had taken place with other stakeholders in relation to the provision of bins at the Marina in Banagher and at Shannonbridge, Ms Hussey advised that a plan was in place for provision of same and that she would be discussing same with Mr Mitchell.
- The Members enquired in relation to the new regulations that were being introduced around solid fuels and who was responsible for monitoring and enforcing them. Ms Hussey advised that the local authority is the body given responsibility for enforcement of the regulations.

- The Members welcomed the work being carried out in burial grounds by local committees in the MD and enquired as to what is the Councils commitment to supporting same on an annual basis.
- The Members enquired in relation to the long term plans to resolve the issues in Portavolla in Banagher and were advised that the plans to address the issue were being aligned with the Marina Master Plan to resolve the problem. The Members also raised the issue of high level of water flowing on the road at Cuba Cottages, Banagher and how would this be resolved as it was causing the road surface to erode. It was advised that the Council would be endeavouring to remove the surface water from the road and find a solution to the problem reoccurring.
- The issue of a lack of bottle banks in Kilcormac at present was raised, Ms Hussey said she would revert to the Members in relation to locating a temporary suitable site for them.
- The Members congratulated the great work being carried out by the Litter Wardens in the MDs but raised concerns that littering and fly tipping is still a major issue, has there been any response in relation to the use of CCTV to identify people who are doing this, they were advised that no formal response has been received from the Dept. yet.
- The Members welcomed the works on the Water-main Project in the Crescent, Birr due to start in January 2023, they also welcomed the work at Shinrone WWTP but enquired as to when a long term solution to the issues at Dunkerrin would be addressed, they were advised that this had been raised with Irish Water but no response had been received.
- The Members enquired about the efficiencies that are being looked at within the Council to reduce their energy consumption e.g. solar panels on buildings, air to water systems in houses and the use of electric vehicles, Ms Hussey advised that the Executive were working with the SEAI carrying out energy audits and looking at ways of reducing the Councils energy consumption.

**Any Other Business:**

1. The Members expressed their congratulations to the Tidy Towns groups within the county on the great work carried out by them in their communities and the great results achieved at the National awards
2. The Members wished DOS Mr Stephane Duclot the very best for the future as he departs Offaly County Council to take up a role in another local authority. They thanked him for all his hard work and contribution to local government in Offaly.

The Meeting then concluded.

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**