

**MINUTES OF JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF  
BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020 IN ARAS AN  
CHONTAE, TULLAMORE AT 4.30 P.M.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Ann Dillon A/Director of Services, Mr John Mitchell SEE, Ms Amanda Pedlow Heritage Officer, Mr Mark Finlay, Pat Pilkington Water and Environment Services OCC and Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator.

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Claffey the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Special Meeting in Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Dooley the Minutes of the Special Meeting held in Committee of Birr MD held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020 were adopted.

**Killaun Bog Walkway Project:**

Ms. Amanda Pedlow, Heritage Officer OCC presented a report to the Members in relation to works being carried out on the Killaun Bog Walkway Project in conjunction with St Brendan's Community School, Birr. She advised that funding in the region of €20,000 had been secured from the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme to carry out work in phases on the project. The area is used by the school for class resources and is also used a lot by locals. The Members thanked Ms Pedlow for the report and welcomed the work to be carried out.

**Water and Environment Services Progress**

Mr Mark Finlay Water and Environment Services presented the current report to the Members. The Members thanked him for his report and raised the following:

- Flooding at Portavolla why is there no progress being made in this area, Mr Finlay advised that he would consult with the Engineers in his Dept. and report back to the Members.
- Any updates in relation to flooding at Shannonharbour and has any contact been made with the OPW in relation to funding for flood relief?
- The Members requested that further information be supplied in relation to the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Grants.

- Highlighted the issue of illegal dumping and acknowledged that this is being considered by the SPC.
- National Spring Clean Week will there be any more initiatives like this before the end of the year?

### **Burial Ground Update**

Mr Mark Finlay and Mr Pat Pilkington presented a report to the Members on Burial Grounds in the Birr MD area. Mr Finlay advised the Members that a meeting has been arranged with interested local people in relation to Dungar Cemetary and it was hoped that the issue in relation to the maintenance of the cemetary would be resolved. The Members welcomed the report and raised the following:

- Thanked staff for work being carried out in graveyards and acknowledged the great work being carried out by locals and community groups in the areas.
- Proposed works at Kilreaghan Cemetary in Ferbane, why has it not moved on from design stage and will the plans be presented to the Members before proceeding to tender? The Members were informed that they could be presented with the drawings once completed.
- Welcomed the great work carried out in the old cemetary in Clonohill and acknowledged that a local family are now cutting the grass in the new Cemetary at Clonohill and doing a great job.
- The Members suggested that it would be beneficial to look at a local structure of perhaps local groups, parish councils or community groups maintaining graveyards and they could be assisted with funding towards this from the Council.

The Members were also advised that a company called Plotbox were being explored to map, plot and record all details within a database of burial records and this would be invaluable to both the Council, locals and people wishing to trace their heritage. Clonohill was being looked at as a pilot for this project. More details would be supplied to the Members as they emerge.

### **District Engineers Report:**

Mr John Mitchell SEE presented the Members with an update on the 2020 Roads Programme, LIS Schemes, Town & Village Renewal Programme, Active Travel and Climate Change Funding and 2020 CLAR Programmes. The Members thanked him for his report and raised the following:

- Welcomed the funding that was received under the Active Travel and Climate Change Funding and enquired if any of the schemes that were applied for and were unsuccessful would these be prioritised under the next round of funding. The Members congratulated the staff on the funding secured and all the work being carried out and enquired if some of the work would have to go out to tender or could it be carried out in-house by our own staff. Mr Mitchell advised that it would be a combination of both Contractors and our own staff to complete the works.
- The Members enquired how many applications were submitted for funding and how many were successful, Mr Mitchell advised that applications were submitted for €500,000 and €271,000 of funding was received under Active

Travel Funding and for Town & Village Renewal all projects submitted were successful.

- When will the work be carried out on the bridge at the River Walk in Birr, Mr Mitchell advised that the Contractor was due to arrive on site within the next month to complete the work and the bridge would be reopened.
- Funding secured for the upgrade to the pedestrian crossing in Ferbane are there any plans to include advanced warning signs at this site. Mr Mitchell advised that traffic calming in general needed to be looked at for Ferbane.
- Have works commenced under the Housing Estate Management Plan previously approved, Mr Mitchell advised that one scheme at McAuley Drive in Birr was almost complete and that he would keep the Members updated on the other works as they commenced.
- Any update in relation to the speeding surveys that were carried out, Mr Mitchell advised that the surveys were complete but that the analysis had not been looked at yet.

### **Any Other Business:**

1. The Members expressed concern in relation to the lack of communication from the HSE in relation to the provision of the Primary Care Centre on Rectory Lands in Birr and proposed that a letter be sent to the HSE looking for a meeting as soon as possible to discuss this and other matters relevant to the MD.
2. The Members expressed concern that there was an advertisement on E-Tenders inviting tenders for the demolition of the ESB plant at Shannonbridge. The Members of OCC had previously sent correspondence to the ESB in this regard after a motion was tabled at their February meeting suggesting that alternative uses be found for the plant and feel very disappointed that no communication was received from ESB prior to this. The Members requested that the ESB be asked to attend a meeting with the Members and that if this was agreed that Minister Hackett would also be asked to attend the meeting.
3. The meeting was advised that Cllr Carroll and Cllr Dooley had a meeting with Minister Eamon Ryan in relation to Just Transition. The Members now wished to request a meeting with Bord Na Mona to discuss the process and so it was proposed to issue an invitation to the CEO of Bord Na Mona to meet with the MD Members.

The Meeting then concluded.

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

\_\_\_\_\_

**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**