
Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tullamore
Held on Thursday 12th June 2025 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Cormac Street, Tullamore

Present: Cllr. D. Harvey (Cathaoirleach); Cllr. S. Murray (Leas Cathaoirleach); Cllr. N. Feighery; Cllr. A Masterson (r); Cllr. F. Moran; Cllr. O. Bryant; Cllr. S. O' Brien

In Attendance: Mr. P. McLoughlin, Director of Services; Ms. M. Cleary, Senior Executive Officer; Mr. J. Dooley, Acting Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. D. Heavey, Meetings Administrator.

On the proposal of Cllr. N Feighery, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members suspended Standing Orders to allow for a vote of sympathy. Cllr N Feighery extending his sympathies to the family, colleagues and friends of Mr. Christy Maye former owner of the Bridge Centre and Bridge House Hotel on his passing. Cllr. Feighery requested that members collaborate on a way to commemorate Mr. Maye's work and contributions to Tullamore and the wider region. His condolences were echoed by all councillors and a minute's silence was held in respect of Mr. Maye.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran and seconded by Cllr. S. Murray, the following minutes were approved:

- Minutes of In-Committee Meeting held on 8th May 2025
- Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 8th May 2025

2. Sports Partnership Report

Mr. E. Henry, Sports Partnership Facilitator, attended for this item.

Mr Heney gave a detailed presentation on the work of Offaly Sports Partnership. He recognised that there were three councillors on their committee but was keen to give a background into Offaly Sports Partnership and the work under their

remit. He outlined that their overall goal is to increase participation in sport and physical activity for people of all ages and provided an overview of the various programmes and initiatives that they run to help increase participation.

Cllr. F. Moran thanked Mr. Henry for his presentation and recognised the excellent assistance the Sports Partnership provides to clubs. Cllr. N. Feighery acknowledged the huge breadth of programmes offered while Cllr. S. O'Brien complimented Eamonn and the staff on their work, especially with the Olympics last year. Cllr. O. Bryant said he has received positive feedback from constituents that the classes organised by the sports partnership were great for meeting people and Cllr. D. Harvey added to this stating the programmes offered encourages everyone to participate.

Mr. Henry thanked the members for their positive comments and said their work is greatly enhanced by the great volunteers in all the different clubs in the county.

3. Regeneration Programme Update

Mr. J. Dooley, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, provided a regeneration report on the various work programmes ongoing in the Municipal District of Tullamore. These included:

- Urban Greenway – URDF 1
- Tanyard – High Street – URDF 2
- Church Street Link / Remote Working Hub – URDF 2
- Meath Lane – Civic Space – URDF 2
- Acres Folly – URDF 2
- Active Travel – Area Based Transport Assessment, Tullamore Cycle Network, Spollenstown Road/Bridge, Bus Shelters Clara & Tubber, Coxes Bridge Traffic Calming, Whitehall Bridge New Layout & Srah Road Pedestrian Crossing

A number of queries were raised by the members and were addressed by Mr. Dooley. Some key issues raised were around:

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- Mucklagh / Killeigh Bus Stops & Traffic Calming
 - Footpaths – Wheelchair accessibility
 - Tullamore Bus Stops
 - Rahan Bridge Traffic lights

The members also congratulated Mr. Dooley on taking up his new role and complimented him on his active engagement in the ongoing works in the Municipal District. Mr. P. McLoughlin, Director of Services, highlighted the great improvements in Tullamore town and assured members that the impact of ongoing regeneration works on businesses would be kept to a minimum.

4. Community Grants 2025

Mr. D. Heavey, Meetings Administrator, listed the applicants recommended by the Community Grants Sub-Committee. The allocation of grant funding was proposed by Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery and agreed.

5. AOB

Retail Strategy

Cllr. N. Feighery raised concerns in relation to comments made by Musgrave Group Chief Executive and Tullamore native, Noel Keeley, stating that *"Tullamore was no longer a vibrant town."* Cllr. Feighery expressed his ongoing concern that free parking in the various business parks was encouraging people away from the town centre. He proposed that a County Development Plan Retail Strategy needs to work from the core of Tullamore outwards and prioritise the development of the town centre. The Retail Strategy, he proposed should include various initiatives to encourage persons to come into the town centre, including considering the merits of introducing a dynamic car parking scheme.

Cllr. S. Murray agreed that businesses in the town centre needed to be supported, and parking was an issue. Cllr. F. Moran highlighted that zoning is a big issue in the County Development Plan and that the elected members needed to take more ownership of the development of the next plan. Cllr. S. O'Brien stated the

introduction of the Rates Waiver Scheme discussed at the in-committee meeting should be an incentive for people to start businesses in the town.

Mr. P. McLoughlin, Director of Services, advised members of the supports to business and initiatives including the proposed rates waiver scheme which is going out to consultation in the coming weeks, the future of retail strategy for Tullamore, which is to go to tender this summer & the reestablishment of Team Tullamore with key objectives relating to improving town centre occupancy, the service & retail mix in the town.

Enterprise Awards – Local Enterprise Office

Cllr. O. Bryant congratulated Tullamore-based Decontamination Technical Services Ltd (dts), supported by Local Enterprise Office Offaly, who won the Midlands Regional Award at the 25th National Enterprise Awards, held at the Mansion House, Dublin on 22nd May.

Cllr. Bryant also thanked Minister Emer Higgins TD who visited Tullamore on Monday, 9th June as part of her national SME Roadshow. A number of small and medium-sized businesses were represented, all of whom were supported by Local Enterprise Office Offaly. Cllr. D. Harvey echoed Cllr. Bryant's comments and complimented the work of the Local Enterprise Office.

Tidy Towns

Cllr. S. Murray advised that the Tidy Towns judging will commence in the coming days. He acknowledged the work of the team of dedicated volunteers, the businesses, local estate communities and the Municipal District outdoor team. He wished Tullamore well in the competition.

The members joined with Cllr. F. Moran acknowledging the work of Mr. John Mitchell, Former District Engineer, during his time in the Municipal District of Tullamore and wished him well in his new role.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date:
