

Municipal District of Edenderry
Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EDENDERRY
HELD ON WEDNESDAY THE 7TH OF DECEMBER 2016 IN THE
TOWN HALL, EDENDERRY AT 3.30PM**

Present: Cathaoirleach Cllr Noel Cribbin, Cllr Noel Bourke, Cllr John Foley,
& Cllr Martin O'Reilly

In attendance: Declan Conlon, Area Manager, John Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer,
Leonard Geoghegan, Assistant Engineer and Therese O'Meara, Meetings
Administrator, Edenderry Municipal District.

Apologies: Cllr Liam Quinn & Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Foley and seconded by Cllr O'Reilly, the minutes of the November meetings were adopted.

2. Report and recommendation from Water and Environment

Brian Pey, Administrative officer gave this month's report. The members asked Brian to pass on their sympathies to Tom Shanahan, Senior Engineer who buried his mother during the week.

Brian advised that the Edenderry Watermain Rehabilitation Project is now 100% completed, however he advised that only 75% of connections have been made to the new mains.

In relation to the Rural water programme Brian advised the Group Water Scheme (GWS) subsidies have been paid. He explained that the department has restored the level of subsidies to the 2015 figures. This was welcomed by the members.

In regard to the capital element of the rural water programme, Brian reminded the members that this is now a multi annual plan. He advised that the funding granted at the start of the year was only 50% of the 2015 allocation. A further submission for funding was sought from the department where it was hoped that an additional 200k would be provided, however, only 40k was allocated. This 40k was used to complete works in Bracknagh GWS.

In relation to GWS takeovers Brian said that a procedure has been agreed by a working group. Pilot programmes took place in Clare, Galway and Mayo. These pilot schemes have now been taken in charge by Irish Water. There is a series of minimum standards which must be met prior to Irish Water taking over a scheme. The first application for takeover in Offaly will be Durrow/Ballybought GWS in the Tullamore MD area.

With regard to Burial grounds, Brian advised that a capacity survey has taken place for all burial grounds in Offaly. This identified the timeframe and likely capital costs required to extend or provide a new burial ground in the county over the coming years. Brian advised that works will commence to extend the use of Cloncrane cemetery in Clonbullogue. Capital funding would be required in order to purchase lands for an extension. Brian also advised that the price of a plot in Portarlington will increase by €100 to move in line with the rest of the county. Therefore price of a plot will be €450.

With regard to the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAM), Brian advised that the public consultation is completed and a report has been submitted to the Minister. Once approval is received, further approval will be sought from the members.

Finally, in relation to Site Suitability Testing for onsite wastewater treatment, otherwise known as percolation testing; Brian advised that from January 2017 site assessors will independently carry out this testing. There has been an increase in the requirement from the EPA in this regard and therefore the testing has become more labour intensive. Brian advised that they are currently working on guidelines in this regard which will go on public display so that the public is aware of same. He also advised that they will audit these assessors to ensure that they comply with requirements and to ensure that there is no risk to water sources.

Cllr O'Reilly welcomed this news and said that people have asked him in the past if they could get their own company to carry out this work. He said that he hoped that this would take some pressure off staff.

Cllr Cribbin asked if it is yet known what percentage of savings are recorded as a result of the rehabilitation works. Brian advised that this will not be known until all connections are made to the new mains. However, he said that he felt that this would be significant. With regard to reinstatement works on Francis St, Edenderry, Brian advised that the council are not satisfied with this work and will continue to follow up on same. Cllr Cribbin asked if an agreement could be signed between OCC and IW first prior to reinstatement works of this type commencing in the future. Brian advised that Tom has written to them and stated that another letter will issue tomorrow.

Cllr Cribbin queried if a GWS had a choice to apply for takeover. Brian advised that this is the choice of the GWS and explained that it has happened in cases where the committee was no longer in existence and in larger schemes where they don't have the money to continue etc.

Cllr Cribbin also queried the route for the new pipeline from Shannon to Dublin, he said that he believed that this will come close to the Ballinagar site and he asked if they were a risk of contamination here. Brian advised that the consultants will look at this.

Declan advised that representatives from Irish Water will meet with the members prior to Monday full council meeting.

Cllr Cribbin advised Brian that some graves are flooding in St Mary's cemetery in heavy rain and he advised and this is causing great distress to families.

3. Agreed Agenda Items

Economic & Enterprise Development focus for Edenderry MD

Therese advised that this item is replacing the headline of Job Creation on our agenda. She advised that Orla has forwarded some information in relation to the option of a facilitator. Therese advised that she has contacted Roscommon County Council in relation to Town Teams and suggested that the members meet with a representative from Roscommon in the new year to seek their opinion in relation to same.

Declan advised that the Chief Executive will attend the in committee meeting in January and suggested that this item be raised with her on that day also.

The members welcomed this news.

Bus Shelters

John advised that Bus Shelter will be installed in a temporary location next week. He advised that he had a fear that we would lose this shelter if we didn't have it installed this year. He explained that it will be moved when pavements works are completed in the square.

Hotel Site

Declan advised that he had no further update in this regard. He advised that he has met with the ETB again who are progressing the matter. The ETB are still meeting with other land owners who own lands around the site.

Cllr Bourke advised that enrolment for next year has already taken place which will see student numbers for Oaklands reached 770 from September.

Ambulance Services

Cllr Foley asked Therese if there was any reply from Junior Minister Corcoran Kennedy regarding the letter which was promised at a previous meeting. He said that he wish to have it recorded in the minutes that he wanted to have this letter for the meeting with the Minister next week. He thanked O'Falia House for giving the ambulance services a base up to this. He advised that he spoke to Willie Merriman who advised that the funding for the new ambulance base has not been sanctioned. Therese advised that no email was received.

Cllr Foley stated that Minister Corcoran Kennedy had given an undertaken at the previous meeting to furnish a letter of commitment to the members. He stated that she owed this to this authority and said that he would be the first to ask her to resign.

He stated that he also wished to have it recorded that if the so called site for the new ambulance bay is going to be the cause of us loosing the ambulance services, then he was against it. He said that he felt that Edenderry Town Councillors had messed up in relation to the ambulance services in the past. He said that he hoped that a proper agenda has been drafted for the meeting with Minister Harris. He stated that he hoped other members wouldn't run with headlines and reminded those present what headlines had done to this town in the past. He also stated to the members present that details which have appeared in the local paper in relation to the ambulance service in recent times are false. He said that he felt that this false stuff would destroy the opportunity to get a new

base. He asked the Director of Service to give a letter stating that planning permission has been granted. He asked that all members fight together.

Cllr O'Reilly said that he was surprised when Minister Corcoran Kennedy stated at the previous meeting that she would furnish a commitment in writing to the members. He also mentioned that there was a lack of a response from Minister Halligans office in relation to Rhode School bus services also. He said that he would also like to have a letter stating that the funding was available for the new ambulance service and said that he wished to have a commitment regarding a temporary base for the ambulance service and a date for the commencement of the new build.

Cllr Cribbin advised that he has spoken to the developer of the unit in Edenderry who advised that the HSE are in the process of signing a 2 year lease with him. He asked that we write to the HSE to get confirmation of same.

Cllr Foley asked Declan what is the next stage of the process. Declan reminded Cllr Foley that the council are not involved in this process and said that once planning permission is issued then the applicant has five years to build.

Cllr Bourke said that this item is a long time on the agenda and reminded those present that the services provided in the town from Ofalis house was limited as certain elements of the job could not be carried out in Edenderry. He said that he hoped that the securing a temporary base wouldn't prolong the build of a permanent facility.

In relation to the school bus services in Rhode, Cllr Bourke expressed his disappointment at having received no reply from the Ministers office. He advised that he has also telephoned the office and got no reply. He advised that some people in the Rhode area are bringing their children to Edenderry at 7am in the morning on route to work.

Area Issues/updates

Cllr O'Reilly queried lights in the Downshire and Declan advised that these are listed for repair shortly.

CLÁR

John Connelly advised that projects in the area have been approved for funding from CLÁR. This will see works carried out in Kilclonfert, Cappagh, Croghan and Knockdrin. This will include for example works to the road to the well in Croghan, school lights and signs etc.

4. **Notice of Motion** – none submitted
5. **Written Questions** – none submitted
6. **Correspondence**
Correspondence was noted.

7. Any other business

The members congratulated Nicole Turner who received the award for Offaly Paralympics person of the year.

Cllr Cribbin wished Rhode well in the Lenister football final.

Cllr Cribbin wished the members and staff of Offaly County Council a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. He also appealed to all not to drink and drive.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday the 11th of January 2017 at 3.30 pm

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Date: _____