

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE HELD AT 4.00PM ON  
THE 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 IN THE TOWN HALL, TULLAMORE**

**Present:** Cllr. D. Harvey, (Cathaoirleach), Cllr. D. Dolan, Cllr. F. Moran,  
Cllr. T. McCormack, Cllr. T. McKeigue, Cllr. D. Owens.

**Apologies:** Cllr. B. Killeavy.

**In Attendance:** Mr. T. Shanahan, Director of Services; Mr. J. Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer; Ms. M. Hussey, Senior Engineer, Environment & Water Services.

**Votes of Sympathy**

Votes of sympathy were extended, and condolences expressed, to the families of: Jim Coffey, Mountmellick, father of staff member Sarah Morgan; Mary Marshall, Rahan, wife of retired staff member Noel Marshall; Glyn Coe, Charleville Rd., Tullamore; Eamon Malone, Marian Place, Tullamore; Dick O’Connell, Clara Rd., Tullamore; Mary Owens, Chancery Lane, Tullamore; and all those in Tullamore MD who had died since the last monthly meeting; on their recent bereavements.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

The following minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, and seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack:

(a) *Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019*

**2. Water & Environment Report**

Ms. M. Hussey, S.E., presented the Water & Environment Report, as circulated, to the members. The members welcomed the Report, raising a number of issues incl.: Use of CCTV cameras at litter blackspots; update on report on survey of Tullamore Sewerage Scheme’s capacity issues requested; Proposal for Water Tower at Clonminch – could structure be converted to accommodation; lead piping replacement in Clara, could work be carried out in conjunction with J. Connelly, S.E.E., as there were drainage issues which could be addressed at the same time, and request for Clara residents to be written to in advance of works; was Lakeview included in proposed works for Marian Square in Clara; request for Westmeath County Council to be contacted to ensure that there is no discharge into the Gageborough river as a result of increased capacity in Temple Spa, Horseleap; would residents in Tullamore benefit from Clonaslee water supply. Ms. M. Hussey noted and responded to queries as follows: Litter Byelaws had been changed since December 2018 to allow warden to issue on the spot fines; Proposed to target areas like housing estates to check all households’ means of waste disposal; she agreed to work with members in locating CCTV cameras; she advised that the structure of the water tower in Clonminch may be deemed structurally unsound for habitation; Letter drops could be arranged as requested; Lake View to be checked and confirmed; Westmeath County Council to be contacted to see if Section 4 licence was required or in place; Irish Water were aware of capacity issues.

**3. Director’s Update on Housing**

Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S., advised that the Chancery Lane housing development was under construction. Part VIII had been advertised for Kearneys Field development, closing date for submissions was 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Pre Part VIII would be prepared for Clonminch in due course. The Council’s Housing Capital Team were currently working on Stage1, Raheen, Clara.

**4. Update on Tullamore Street Enhancement Programme and Urban Regeneration & Development Fund.**

Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E., updated the members on Tullamore Street Enhancement Programme. He advised that the first section of works from the roundabout to Tara Street would be finished by the end of February, The second phase from Tara Street to Roselawn would then commence. Concrete footpaths were included in the first section, with paving included in the second phase. Additional staff would be required for the paving. The members raised concerns in relation to the timeline of the project and the length of time taken to date to finish the first section. Mr. J. Connelly advised that the contractor was addressing any concerns raised to date and was committed to the project. He also advised that works were ongoing in relation to, for example, the bridge which would be pre manufactured and would have to be tendered in advance. The contractor was working on same.

Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S., updated the members on the €3M funding approved under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). The funding would result in works on Harbour Street and Store Street and link the Greenway via the town. Part VIII would be required for the projects. He confirmed that no changes would be made to parking or traffic flow on Harbour Street as a result of the proposals. He expressed disappointment at the lack of funding made available for the proposed Arts Centre under the application. He advised that the Department had requested an updated Business Plan and Fund Raising Plan from the Board of the Tullamore Community Arts Centre Ltd., (TCAC Ltd.) and advised that the Council was providing assistance where possible.

The members welcomed the funding and the proposed works. They expressed disappointed in relation to funding for the Arts Centre. They welcomed the additional funding of €200,000 for a public realm at the rear of the proposed Arts Centre. The members were hopeful that, should a further call for funding occur in March, a further application be submitted for funding for the Arts Centre.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Harvey advised that, as a member of the Board of TCAC Ltd. he would update the Board at it's next meeting.

**5. Report from Municipal District of Tullamore's Representative on: Tullamore/Chandler Sister Cities**

Cllr. T. McCormack gave an update on Tullamore/Chandler Sister Cities. He advised the members that twenty students from the Sacred Heart Secondary School would travel to Chandler on an exchange programme, with students from Chandler travelling to Tullamore In May. This was the sixth year of the exchange programme. He also advised that the Mayor of Chandler had extended an invitation to the members to visit Chandler where a civic reception would be held in their honour. It was proposed that First Responders enter into an exchange programme with First Responders from Chandler wherby two members from the Gadra Síochana and two members of the Fire Services would visit Chandler. The proposal needed to be formalised. It was also planned that four students, one from each Secondary School, would visit Chandler during the year under a music based programme.

**6. Community Grant Scheme 2019**

It was agreed by all to defer this item to the March committee meeting.

**7. Notices of Motion:**

**Cllr. T. McCormack**

(i) *“That the Municipal District of Tullamore will put in place a grant scheme for business and property owners in the town centre to repair, improve or replace their shop fronts.”*

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran. Cllr McCormack stated that he would like to see a grant scheme created in Tullamore town to link in with the ongoing enhancement works in the town. He suggested that some form of rebate on rates may be an incentive to the scheme. It was noted that a similar county wide scheme was suggested at Offaly County Council’s last Budget Meeting, and that Mr. D. Conlon, Head of Finance, had agreed to look into the possibility of introducing such a sheme.

**Cllr. T. McKeigue**

(i) *“That the Municipal District of Tullamore put in place a Traffic Management Plan at the new Spar Shop – GAA grounds at Arden Road, Tullamore.”*

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cathaoirleach Cllr. D. Harvey. Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E., in response, that the issue was being followed up with the developer.

**8. A.O.B.**

Ballycumber Town & Village Scheme

Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E., agreed, following a request from Cllr F. Moran, that a Public Consultation evening be held in Ballycumber regarding the proposed enhancement works for the village.

Benches at Cluain Fia

Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E., agreed, following a request from Cllr F. Moran, that the benches removed from Cluain Fia, be given to the community.

Road Safety Issues

Cllr D. Dolan raised concerns in relation to the Bogtown corner on Moate Road, Clara; and the pedestrian crossing at the Boys School in Clara. Mr. J. Connelly, in response, stated that he had looked at both locations, and confirmed that additional signage would be erected at the Bogtown corner, and carrying out of high friction surfacing would be carried out when ground temperature increased. In relation to the Boys School, he advised that he would meet with the staff of the school with a view to some works being carried out inside their boundary. Works to keep pedestrian crossing clear were in progress.

Litter complaints

Cllr. T. McCormack complimented the staff of Tullamore MD in relation to their handling of litter complaints.

Tullamore Train Station

Cllr McKeigue raised the issue of the closure of the pedestrian access gate at Tullamore Railway Station and the rusty condition of the gate at the main entrance. The members agreed that a meeting Iarnoid Eireann be requested.

**The meeting then concluded.**

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cathaoirleach**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Meetings Administrator**

**Date:**

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