

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE HELD AT 4.00PM ON THE 11th JULY 2019 IN THE TOWN HALL, TULLAMORE

Present: Cllr. F. Moran, (Cathaoirleach), Cllr. N. Feighery, Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. T. McCormack, Cllr. S. O'Brien, Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. K. Smollen.

In Attendance: Mr. T. Shanahan, Director of Services; Mr. J. Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. B. Kelly, Executive Engineer; Ms. M. Cleary, Senior Executive Officer, Housing; Ms M. Brady, Meetings Administrator.

Before the meeting commenced, Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran welcomed Mr. B. Kelly, E.E., recently appointed to Tullamore MD, and expressed good wishes to Mr. S. Hynds, E.E., on his recent retirement. The Cathaoirleach also took the opportunity to wish former Taoiseach Mr. B. Cowen a speedy recovery and good health.

It was agreed by all to suspend standing orders to discuss the recently reported possibility of the closing of Our Lady of Consolation Nursing Home, Tullamore. Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran read the following statement to the meeting regarding Offaly County Council's position on the issue:

At a meeting of Offaly County Council on the 26th March 2018, Offaly County Council agreed to the disposal of 1.13 acres of Land at Arden Tullamore to Mr. James Cunningham, Our Lady of Consolation Nursing Home, Arden Road by way of a Section 183 resolution. The disposal was subject to a legal contract being executed and that the land would only be used for the purposes of a Nursing Home and that the transfer of the lands would not be finalised until planning permission for such purposes had been obtained by James Cunningham. Offaly County Council have not sought to alter or change this agreement in any way and await further progression of the transaction by James Cunningham.

The members expressed disappointment with the possibility of the closure, and stressed the importance of the Nursing Home to Tullamore town and surrounding areas.

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended, and condolences expressed, to the families of: Peg Cronly, Ballykilmurray, Tullamore; Peter Doyle, Pearse Park, Tullamore; Noel Martin, O'Molloy St., Tullamore; Dolly Spain, Marian Place, 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. Harvey, and seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery:

- (a) Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 13th June, 2019
- (b) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13th June, 2019

2. Housing Report

Ms. M. Cleary, S.E.O., presented the Housing Report, as circulated, to the members. The members welcomed the Report, raising a number of issues incl.: exclusion of Part V housing

units from Tenant Purchase Scheme; turnaround time for vacant houses; comparison of housing acquisitions to 2018, and to other counties; issue of the Council competing with private market for acquisitions; HAP rent limits; request for update on housing acquisitions for people with disabilities; reduction in DPG budget from 2018. Ms. M. Cleary, in response, stated that the Part V exclusion issue would be followed up through the Housing SPC, turnaround time for occupancy of vacant houses had improved, procurement process completed at start of year; housing acquisitions were broadly in line with 2018, not same supply in Offaly as in other counties, and the Council did not compete with private market, it out if other bidders were involved. She confirmed that there were 10 allocations for people with disabilities to date in 2019, and noted that the HAP limits were challenging. The issue would be referred to the Housing SPC.

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

Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S., updated the members on Tullamore Street Enhancement Programme, and the planned URDF works at Harbour Street and Store Street, and Grand Canal Greenway. He stated that the finished product was becoming apparent and acknowledged disruption caused during the works. The works were due to commence in O'Connor Square in August, and would continue simultaneously in Colmcille St. The members raised the following issues: provision for electric car charging points in the plans; location of ESB pole on High St.; height of footpaths; narrowing of road at Patrick St junction. Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E., in response, stated that ducting for charging points was provided for, future proofing for changes in technology; he confirmed that he was following up the issue of the pole with the contractor. He confirmed that the height of the footpaths was pre-determined by the thresholds of the street. He added that communication and liaising with businesses was ongoing. It was agreed that updates on the works would be provided on the Council's website and social media.

4. Notices of Motion:

Cllr. T. McCormack

(i) "That the Municipal District of Tullamore look at the installation of solar lights on the greenway up to Boland's Lock."

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey. Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S., agreed to follow up on the issue. He also agreed to look at the possibility of bollards being installed along the greenway to allow walkers to sit and rest.

(ii) "That the Municipal District of Tullamore put together a program of events to celebrate Tullamore 400."

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens. Cllr. McCormack in proposing the motion referred to his proposal at the June monthly meeting that a New Year's Eve concert be held in O'Connor Square, and added that the event could tie in with the launching of Tullamore 400.

5. A.O.B.

Iarnród Éireann

Cllr. D. Harvey raised the issue of the lack of available seats on trains, and it was agreed that Iarnród Éireann would be contacted regarding the possibility of extra carriages been provided at peak times.

Footpaths at Clara Swimming Pool

Cllr. K. Smollen requested that repairs be carried out at the footpaths at Clara Swimming Pool. Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E., in response, stated that the works on the footpaths were included in the planned schedule of works for the year.

Lloyd Town Park

Cllr. K. Smollen expressed concerns regarding the skate park in Lloyd Town Park. Mr. J. Connelly, in response, stated that the skate park was subject to regular inspections, and agreed to follow up on the issue.

Clara Issues

Cllr. K. Smollen raised the following Clara based issues – overflowing bins, hedge on Tubber Rd., and derelict buildings. Mr. J. Connelly agreed to follow up on the issues raised.

Congratulations

Tullamore boxer Grainne Walsh was congratulated by all on her bronze medal win at the 2019 European Games, and it was agreed by all that the Municipal District of Tullamore would hold a civic reception in Tullamore MD chamber in her honour, subject to the approval of the CPG and full Council.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date:
