

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE HELD AT 4.00PM ON
THE 9th APRIL 2020 IN THE CHARLEVILLE ROOM, ÁRAS an CHONTAE, TULLAMORE**

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Mr. T. Shanahan, Director of Services (r); Mr. J. Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer (r);
Mr. Ray Bell, IT; Ms B. Corbet, Meetings Administrator

*** (r) Denotes remote access*

Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Moran welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending the meeting remotely.

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended and condolences expressed, to the families of Bridget Byrne, Tullamore; Charlie McIntyre, Tullamore; Roland Cairns, Clara; John Gilligan, Tullamore; Daniel Gorry, Tullamore; Bridie Jordan, Clara; Michael Whittaker, Tullamore; James Meehan, Tullamore; Fr. Seamus O'Connor, Tullamore; David Wilkie, Tullamore; Marcella Rushe, Edenderry; Bridie Coady, Clara; Elizabeth Coyne, Tullamore; Aoife Siun Doyle, Clara; Tommy Smith, Tullamore; Maura McGirl, Tullamore; Stephen Burke, Tullamore; Rose Kelly, Tullamore; Henry Joughin, Tullamore; PJ Hoctor, Mountbolus and all those in Tullamore MD who died since the last monthly meeting, on their recent bereavements.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

The following minutes were approved on the proposal of Cllr. K. Smollen and seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery:

- a. *Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12th March 2020*
- b. *Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th March 2020*

2. Update on Council Services

Mr. Tom Shanahan advised the members that Offaly County Council continues to provide essential services and the staff at Tullamore Municipal District remain contactable allowing as much continuity of business as is possible at the current time.

Ms. B Corbet gave a brief update on the Community Call Helpline number 1800 81 81 81, advising there were a total of 135 calls to the Helpline which co-ordinates the delivery of food, fuel and medicine to vulnerable people where their usual source of support has become unavailable. A large proportion of the calls were from people who wish to volunteer their services and help in some way.

The members congratulated the staff of Offaly County Council for the rapid establishment of the Community Call Helpline and the service continuity, they raised a number of issues including grass cutting, signatures on rent calculations, charges at Derryclure Landfill, bottle banks, grass cutting in cemeteries, dog fouling.

Mr. T. Shanahan advised clarity will be sought on rent calculations and cemeteries. Mr. J. Connelly advised essential maintenance will continue.

In addition, the members expressed thanks to Lord Oxmanstown for facilitating the conversation with Mayor Yang Lining and Vice-Mayor Guo Qing of Luzhou, which brought about the

generous donation of 30,000 face masks to Ireland. The contribution will no doubt greatly assist the frontline staff as they care for critically ill patients of the pandemic.

3. Roads Report

Mr. John Connelly advised Tullamore Municipal District staff are currently working on procurement with respect to the Roads Programme to allow works to commence as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Applications can still be considered for LIS/CIR.

Patching, street cleaning, bottle banks are monitored closely with essential works being complete in line with public health restrictions. Dog waste stations are on order. In answer to query, Mr. Connelly confirmed Tullamore Municipal District are not responsible for grass cutting in new housing estates. The older housing estates account for approx. 50 hectares of grass cutting.

4. Regeneration Projects

Tullamore Street Enhancement (ERDF/URDF)

Mr. John Connelly advised the members that Street Enhancement Works ceased on Saturday 28th March (with works to make the site safe continuing on the following Monday and Tuesday) in line with Covid 19 restrictions. O'Connor Square is almost complete with reinstatement required at TSB and the Library.

The members were disappointed and queried if some exception could be made to continue with Street Enhancement works while the town is quiet.

Mountbolus

Mr. J Connelly to forward plan to Cllr. D. Owens and Cllr. N. Feighery.

5. A.O.B.

- The members agreed to extend the closing date for the Community Grants Scheme until 7th May.
- The members discussed recent issues of antisocial behaviour in Church Hill with respect to illegal encampments which have been exasperated as a result of Covid 19. The Department of Housing has emphasised its clear directive to Local Authorities that members of the Traveller Community, no matter where they are living, will get access to basic services, such as water and sanitation, where needed during COVID-19 crisis, in addition during the current restrictions cannot be moved as they are included in the ban on evictions. Options are being considered to set up a taskforce.
- The members congratulated Ms. A Delaney CEO, OCC on the purchase of the old priest house in Clara which includes 25 acres. The members also welcomed Planning Permission for OPW Harbour works at Cappincur. They congratulated Ms. Orla Martin on her work in developing a sister relationship with Grand Canal Dock, Dublin. In addition, Mr. T Shanahan advised of the purchase of a property on Church St to link with Regeneration Projects in O'Connor Square.
- A District meeting will take place via Zoom to discuss the County Development Plan.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

_____ **Cathaoirleach**

_____ **Meetings Administrator**

Date:
