

Minutes of February Meeting of the Municipal District of Piltown

Venue: Area Offices, Ferrybank

Meeting Date: 3rd February, 2016 at 10.00am

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Pat Dunphy

Present: Cllrs. Ger Frisby, Fidelis Doherty, Eamon Aylward, Melissa O'Neill and Tomas Breathnach.

In Attendance: Kevin Hanley, Meetings Administrator, Ian Gardner, Area Engineer and Laura Murphy, A/Staff Officer

Apologies: Marie Melia, Director of Services and Mary Mulholland, Director of Services

Outset

At the outset of the meeting, Cllr. Dunphy proposed a vote of sympathy following the recent deaths of Mary Long, Glenmore and Peter Barrow, Photographer. All members agreed.

Later, Cllr. Dunphy on his own behalf and on behalf of all the members extended condolences to Cllr. O'Neill following a recent family bereavement.

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meeting held 13th January 2016, proposed by Cllr. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and agreed.

Matters Arising

Public Lighting, Mill Road, Mullinavat – Cllr. Aylward noted his dissatisfaction that lights are not switched on to-date and requested update. I Gardner advised that he is in contact with the ESB to move this matter forward.

Roundabout at Slieverue – Cllr. Frisby requested update. K Hanley advised no further update available as yet.

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – Cllr. Frisby requested update. K Hanley advised that the Council are meeting with the IDA this month however noted there were still on-going legal issues with this development.

Recycling Facility at Newrath – Cllr. Frisby requested update. K Hanley circulated information on alternative recycling sites for the Piltown area. Three possible locations have been selected and the Councillors are requested to assist with identifying a preferential site to locate the recycling facility.

Recycling Facility at Rosbercon – Cllr. Doherty requested update and commented that there is very little communication on this matter. K Hanley advised that this will be an item on the agenda at next meeting with New Ross Municipal District.

New Ross By-Pass – Cllr. Frisby noted that New Ross By-Pass has started. Cllr. Doherty welcomed by-pass and wished the project well. Later, Cllr. Dunphy asked what is the position regarding a link up of the dual carriage way from Waterford to New Ross By-Pass and proposed to write to TII requesting an update, this was seconded by Cllr. Frisby. Cllr. Dunphy also said that the access to the Rhu Glen Hotel needed to be looked at as this is a dangerous junction. Cllr. Doherty agreed and suggested that 'No Overtaking' signs be erected along this section of road.

Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme – Cllr. O'Neill asked if there was any feedback regarding issues raised at last meeting. K Hanley advised that there was no update but will check the position with M Mullally, SEO regarding same.

TII Communication – Cllr. Dunphy requested update. K Hanley confirmed no update as yet but advised S Walton, A/DoS is hopeful that progress will be made shortly.

Flooding Update – Cllr. Aylward requested update. I Gardner advised that all works completed to date have been maintenance works. The Council is looking at all issues; will need to identify solutions and seek funding. I Gardner recently met with the OPW to discuss catchment issues and added it may be necessary to employ consultants.

S Walton, A/DoS is also involved in this process and is looking at measures to apply for funding. I Gardner noted that some resolutions will involve TII and that he is also looking at completing some drainage works under the Roads Maintenance Scheme. A request for funding for costs incurred to date of c.€100k has been sent to the

Department. It is envisaged that further funding of approx. €750k will be required, which excludes any costs relating to the catchment area. Cllr. Dunphy queried when would the process be brought to a conclusion as certain households are at risk at being flooding again. I Gardner replied that it is very difficult to put a time frame on these works; a proper structural approach is needed. Cllr. Aylward commented that the Shannon area received a lot of attention in the media. The difficulties in South Kilkenny need to be highlighted to secure the funding that the area is entitled to. Cllr. Aylward asked if there was any update from motorway contactors. I Gardner replied that he had met with Egis Lagan and discussions are on-going. Cllr. Breathnach again suggested that we put a strategic plan in place to deal with flooding and queried where will funding to resolve issues come from. I Gardner responded that with regard to catchment analysis the Council hopes to secure funding from the OPW subject to meeting the criteria of a cost benefit analysis. He further advised that 100% funding is not available and the MD will have to pay a small percentage towards making up the balance. Cllr. Breathnach further queried if funding was granted, who would control the works. I Gardner confirmed once funding is secured the Council would be in charge of works.

While discussing some of the matters arising above, the members highlighted the unwillingness of some bodies to engage with the Council to discuss/review new and on-gong issues e.g. TII, ESB, and OPW. Cllr. O'Neill proposed that a motion be brought to full Council meeting that Regional Officers around the Country be put in place for this purpose, seconded by Cllr. Dunphy. Cllr. Breathnach noted, with reference to January's full Council meeting, that a list should be compiled of bodies that the Council engages with and schedule made to meet and discuss issues.

Roadworks Update

I Gardner circulated a brief report to members and advised that currently PMD is in-between schemes. Recent works carried out have concentrated on drainage and pavement maintenance resulting from the recent flooding. It was noted that road allocations have been announced; however no details regarding the breakdown of funding for the area is available as yet but it is expected to be similar to last year, c. €3m of which fixed costs represents approx. €1.5m. He pointed out that current funding is 46.3% of what it had been in 2007. In coming weeks I Gardner will prepare a Roadwork's Scheme for members consideration which will include background information for each project including fixed costs, labour and plant etc. With regard to the multi annual Restoration Improvement Plan IG advised members there was scope for c.30 new schemes to be included and requested that each Councillor submit, in prioritized order, 6 schemes each. A date to discuss these plans will be set later.

Some discussion followed regarding staffing, the budget and what items can be charged to the RWS with contributions and queries from all members. In particular the prospect of employing additional staff was raised. Cllr. Doherty noted, with reference to January's full Council meeting, that it is within the Councillors remit to adjust the budget to divert monies, for example, towards employing more roads staff and queried if a motion to the full Council should be put forward regarding this. K Hanley advised that the budget has been adopted for 2016 and if increased, it may involve increasing commercial rates and local property tax. Cllr. Breathnach suggested that advice should be sought on Cllr. Doherty's proposed motion. Cllr. Dunphy asked if monies could be diverted within PMDs budget. Cllr. O'Neill proposed that a notice of motion to employ additional staff be brought before the full Council, seconded by Cllr. Dunphy. Cllr. Dunphy requested that issues relating to staffing be brought back to Management. K. Hanley will inform Management of same.

Waterford Boundary Committee Update

K. Hanley handed out a copy of Kilkenny County Council's boundary review submission to each Councillor. Cllr. Dunphy thanked K Hanley, S Walton, P O'Neill for all their work, effort and commitment and thanked the public again for taking the time to get involved. Cllr. Breathnach gave special mention to Denis Malone and his department for all their work. Cllr. Dunphy informed members that the sub-committee issued a statement during the week to keep the boundary issue alive and said that work needs to be on-going regarding this matter. He read out the letter sent to the Minister formally calling on him to stop the review before any more resources are wasted. It was noted that no reply from the Minister has been received to date. K Hanley confirmed that both Waterford and Kilkenny County Councils had until the 22nd January 2016, to make their submissions. Provisional figures indicated that in excess of 20,000 submissions were received, with a provisional figure of approx. 19,700 from Kilkenny. Kilkenny County Councils submission is now public and available on Kilkenny County Council's website. The Committee has been in touch with both Kilkenny and Waterford Councils seeking further information and clarification on the submission. The Committee is due to issue its report to the Minister by the end of March. Cllr. Dunphy acknowledged it was a good document, detailing a huge amount of information.

Cllr. O'Neill also conveyed her thanks to all involved however expressed her annoyance regarding the waste of time and money involved with the boundary review.

Meeting with Eir – K Hanley advised that Eir was unable to attend scheduled meeting today however representatives from Eir will be available to meet members at the Eir event on Monday 8th February in The Parade Tower, Kilkenny to discuss any queries they may have.

Any Other Business

Public Lighting for Ardclone Road, Piltown – Cllr. Dunphy noted there has been a number of requests for the provision of public lighting, most recently for Ardclone Road, Piltown. I Gardner confirmed that 2016 is the last year of the existing public lighting plan. It was agreed to honour the current plan and to hold a separate meeting to review public lighting at a later date.

Taking in Charge of Small Developments - Cllr. O'Neill queried how are development charges utilized and how does a small development go about being taken in charge by the Council. I Gardner confirmed that development contributions go towards funding general works in the county. K. Hanley will refer query regarding taking-in-charge to AM Walsh, SEO, Planning.

Signage for the Rhu Glenn Hotel – Cllrs. Dunphy, Doherty and Frisby highlighted the problems that the Rhu Glenn Hotel are encountering with their request to erect directional signage for their establishment on the N25. This comes under the remit of TII.

Ferrybank Traffic Lights – Cllr. O'Neill raised the matter regarding traffic lights at Fountain Street junction for Christendom which are not switched on and also highlighted that signage at this junction is interfering with driver's visibility. Cllr. Dunphy said this matter will be included on the agenda for next meeting with Waterford City & County Council.

Ramp at Ferrybank Shopping Centre - Cllr. O'Neill asked if the Council could consider installing an alternative ramp type outside Ferrybank Shopping Centre as the existing ramps do not slow traffic. I Gardner advised that the current ramps are more severe than the national standard. Cllr. Dunphy said this matter will be included on the agenda for next meeting with Waterford City & County Council.

Speed Cameras – Cllr. Frisby proposed that PMD write to the company that operates the speeding cameras to ask that the speed camera off Luffany Roundabout be re-located to a new, more effective site; this was seconded by Cllr. Doherty. Cllr. Aylward said the Council should have some in-put to where speed cameras are positioned. Cllr. Breathnach agreed and suggested that the Council should employ moveable signs, to be used in various areas, with a possible message of "Slow Down – Thank You". Cllr. Breathnach proposed a motion for full Council meeting that the Council have some discretion to where speed vans are located. All members agreed.

Election Signage – Cllr. Aylward referenced the up-coming General Election and brought up the matter of positioning of election posters. I Gardner advised that guidelines have issued from the Department on this. Cllr Aylward suggested that PMD should discuss banning or agreeing on designated areas for election posters at some stage in the future. Cllrs. O'Neill and Breathnach agreed.

Invitation to Gardaí – It was agreed to invite the Gardaí to April's meeting to discuss local matters of concern.

Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, 2nd March, 2016 at 9:30 am.

Also, joint meeting with Waterford City & County Council in City Hall on Wednesday 2nd March, 2016 at 11:30am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____