

Minutes of the December Meeting of the Municipal District of Callan-Thomastown

Date: Wednesday 4th December, 2024 at 3.00p.m.

Venue: Thomastown Community Centre, Marshes Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.

Chair: Cllr Deirdre Cullen
Present Cllr Stephanie Doheny, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Joe Sheridan.
In attendance: Fiona Deegan, Director of Services; Mr Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr Declan Murphy, Area Engineer; Ms Anne Marie Shortall, Meetings Administrator; Ms Carmel Brett, Staff Officer.
Apologies: Cllr Michael Doyle.

Election of temporary Cathaoirleach and temporary Leas Cathaoirleach

Cllr Deirdre Cullen, acting as Leas Cathaoirleach in the absence of Cllr Peter Chap who was recently successful in the General Election, opened the meeting and asked for nominations for a temporary Cathaoirleach and temporary Leas Cathaoirleach until such time as a replacement for Cllr Peter Chap Cleere is co-opted onto the Council.

Cllr Cullen was proposed for the position of temporary Cathaoirleach by Cllr Joe Sheridan and was seconded by Cllr Stephanie Doheny.

There were no further nominations.

Cllr Deirdre Cullen was elected as temporary Cathaoirleach and thanked the members.

Cllr Cullen sought nominations for the position of temporary Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Joe Sheridan was proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen and seconded by Cllr Joe Lyons.

There were no further nominations.

Cllr Joe Sheridan was elected as temporary Leas Cathaoirleach and thanked the members.

1) Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the Municipal District meeting of 6th November, 2024.

The minutes of the Municipal District meeting held 6th November, 2024 were adopted, proposed by Cllr J Sheridan and seconded by Cllr S Doheny.

(b) Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District held 6th November 2024

The minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District held 6th November were adopted, proposed by Cllr J Lyons and seconded by Cllr S Doheny.

2) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update on Flood Relief Schemes (Philippe Beubry)

Mr Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer, advised the members that stage 1 of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch FRS is scheduled for 15th February 2025, with the culmination of stage 2, submission to An Bord Pleanála, expected in Q3 2025.

A summary was given on progress with additional archaeological tests on the Quay, Graiguenamanagh and progressing the section of the Duiske near Turf Market.

A non-statutory public information day is scheduled for 23rd January, to be preceded by an information session for Elected Members.

Discussions are ongoing with homeowners along the quay to Tinnahinch castle regarding individual property protection measures, and with landholders in relation to the proposed CPO of lands.

Ballyhale FRS is at stage 3, with the CPO process ongoing following the developments approval by An Bord Pleanála last August and construction envisaged for summer 2025.

Tender documents are being prepared for proposed works under OPW Minor Works Schemes in KCAT carpark, Bridge Street and Fennellys yard, Callan with further discussions required between KCC and OPW regarding costs and requirement for additional funding.

Consulting engineers have been appointed for works design and the Tender process for the Kings River silt mounds in Callan.

Mr Beubry referred to works to provide flood barriers to a dwelling in Ardalo, Castlecomer, saying there would be liaison with the Area Engineers in relation to future funding applications under the Minor Works Scheme and advising that the requirement for Cost Benefit Analysis greater than 1.35 is increasingly difficult to achieve due to increased construction costs.

Cllr Cullen and the members thanked Mr Beubry for his update and raised the following items:

- Current status of schemes for Thomastown & Inistioge – they are both included in 6 schemes approved under CFRAMS, but the OPW have not authorised commencement of these schemes as yet.
- Procedure for cleaning of rivers – it is the landowners' responsibility for maintaining riverbanks and vegetation in conjunction with the guidelines laid down by OPW, Inland Fisheries and NPWS

(b) Monthly Roads Update (Declan Murphy)

Mr D. Murphy, Area Engineer, updated the members on the following roads related matters:

- Drainage works Ballyredding and Low Street, Thomastown completed,
- Inlet works on Regional and Local roads will be ongoing in December & January, Jet Vac works on gullies has also been ongoing over last number of weeks;
- Bridge Street Active Travel Scheme works now complete including ramps, pedestrian crossings and line markings;
- Low Cost Safety works in Bennettsbridge including ramp installation completed;
- Safe to Schools works on Mill Road & High Street Graiguenamanagh now complete with footpath works commenced at girls' school;
- ORIS Stoneyford to Ennisnag footpath works commenced;
- Clár funded public lighting and macadam works completed in Coolagh carpark, seating to follow;
- Speed limit signage – installation of new poles commenced in Callan North.

The members thanked Mr. Murphy for his update and raised the following items:

- Paulstown, in the Municipal District of Castlecomer, is the next beneficiary of the Safe to Schools project, Restoration Improvement works planned in 2025 for in front of schools will be beneficial in this Municipal District;
- Possibility to improve sightlines or slow traffic at roundabout in Knocktopher can be aided by Community Recognition Funded speed ramps, landowners can be

approached regarding overgrown hedges and the location can be considered for discretionary funded works in 2025

(c) Monthly Rural Development Update (Anne Marie Shortall)

Ms Anne Marie Shortall provided update for the RRDF project in Callan and informed the members that there is a submission with the Department of Housing for approval for a new Library development. As it is proposed that a Library will be the anchor tenant in the Friary complex in Callan a more detailed design cannot be progressed in the meantime. It is hoped further progress will be made in 2025.

The Local Enhancement Programme was launched in November, funded by the DRCD with total fund of €170,500. Guidelines for grant of funding include 30% of funding ringfenced for smaller grants of €1000 or less. The grant will be advertised in early January 2025.

3) Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District members for transaction of such meeting.

There were no items for discussion

4) Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

There were no items for discussion

5) Notices of Motion

There were no items for discussion

6) Correspondence

Ms Shortall informed the members of a request from Mr Kieran Kelly, Parks Department, to present to the members details on the proposed Woodstock Greenway. It was agreed to hold a Municipal District meeting on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 3pm via remote access MS Teams to facilitate Mr Kellys presentation.

7) Any other Business

This concluded the business of the meeting

Chairperson: 

