

***Minutes of Municipal District of Piltown Meeting held Wednesday, 16th
January, 2019 at 10.00am at the Ferrybank Area Office***

Present: Cllr. Ger Frisby, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs. T. Breathnach, F. Doherty, P. Dunphy, M. O'Neill and E. Aylward

In attendance: B. Tyrrell, Meetings Administrator and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Apologies: S. McKeown, Director of Services and I. Gardner, Area Engineer

At the outset of the meeting Cllr. Frisby took the opportunity to extend sympathy to Cllr. Tomas Breathnach and the Walsh family on the recent death of his brother, Jack Walsh, who had given many years in the public service and to serving his community and who would be greatly missed by all. Each of the members joined in paying tribute to the late Jack Walsh, extending condolences to Cllr. Breathnach and the Walsh family. B. Tyrrell also extended sympathy to Cllr. Breathnach on behalf of the Chief Executive and entire staff of Kilkenny County Council.

Cllr. Breathnach thanked the members for their kind words and tributes to Jack, which he said were very much appreciated.

Cllr. Dunphy proposed that the meeting be adjourned for five minutes as a mark of respect, this was seconded by Cllr. Doherty and agreed. The meeting was then adjourned.

Funding

Cllr. Frisby welcomed TII funding towards the N24 and N25 projects, including the Tower Road Safety Scheme, which he said were a huge plus for the region and would pay dividends going forward with regard to road safety and saving lives in the future. He acknowledged the benefit of meetings with TII and the efforts of the Piltown MD, which had paid off. All the members echoed the sentiments of Cllr. Frisby, with Cllr. Dunphy noting the co-operative approach with other local authorities is working well.

B. Tyrrell advised that Tim Butler, Director of Services, would be issuing invites before the next Council Meeting to potential attendees of the upcoming meeting with TII.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

MDP Meeting 5th December – Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and agreed.

Matters Arising

Meetings with other Local Authorities – Cllr. O'Neill asked if there was any update with regard to the recording of joint meetings held between the Piltown MD and other Local Authorities for attendance purposes, which she felt was important, due to the additional work involved. B. Tyrrell advised that while attendance was in fact recorded at these meetings, they were not considered statutory meetings under current legislation. It was noted that this would require an amendment to legislation. Cllr. Breathnach proposed that a submission be made under the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy to seek recognition of these meetings and to further encourage the cooperative approach between local authorities. This was seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and agreed. It was noted that the final date for submissions was 8th March, 2019.

Cllr. Breathnach also felt that a local submission should be made by the Piltown MD under the RSES as it was of particular significance to this area. B. Tyrrell advised that Denis Malone would be in attendance at the February meeting of the Piltown MD to discuss this and M.A.S.P. in more detail.

Ferrybank District Centre – Cllr. Doherty asked for an update for the next meeting.

Tower Road Footpath – Cllr. Dunphy welcomed commencement of works on the provision of a footpath on the Tower Road and acknowledged the work put into the scheme by I. Gardner.

Footpaths – Cllr. Aylward asked if the priority list compiled some years ago in relation to provision of footpaths in the Municipal District could be revisited, as he had a number of additional requests.

Meeting with Gardai – Cllr. O’Neill asked for an update with regard to meeting with An Garda Siochana, she requested that they be invited in to discuss policing matters, particularly in relation to the new Greenway and Ferrybank Playground.

B. Tyrrell advised that the Gardai are currently developing local policing partnerships, which would operate along the lines of the Joint Policing Committees, with input and representation from the local communities etc. The intention was to use the Municipal Districts to operate this new partnership, which would commence with Castlecomer and would then be replicated in the other districts. However, he said that in the interim, the Gardai are willing to attend at the Piltown MD meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that an invitation be extended to both the Kilkenny/Carlow and Waterford Divisions to attend at the February meeting for 9.30am.

Greenway – B. Tyrrell gave an update with regard to the application for funding under the National Greenway Fund. It was noted that a total of 22 applications had been lodged nationally and that the process to adjudicate on these was underway at national level with a result expected early in the 2nd quarter of 2019.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Monthly Roadworks Update

A report was circulated outlining details in relation to pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works completed since the last meeting. Details were noted.

Cllr. Aylward noted that details of the Draft Restoration Improvement Scheme, which had been discussed in committee at the September meeting, appeared to have been disclosed to the public in the South Kilkenny area. He asked, as had been previously agreed, that details not be circulated in future until such time as the programme was finally agreed.

Cllr. O’Neill welcomed repairs to the Abbey Road bus shelter.

Cllr. Aylward referred to severe flooding which occurred at several locations in the area on Saturday 15th December. He wished to compliment Council staff on attending to same on that day and stated that this highlights the fact that these issues need to be tackled once and for all.

Cllr. O’Neill asked if any progress was made in relation to flood relief measures following the consultation process. Cllr. Dunphy noted that reports were being prepared and asked for an update at the next meeting. He noted delays on this matter and asked that this issue be brought to Management and that additional resources be provided where needed to help progress vital matters such as this.

(b) Update on N25 New Ross Bypass

Report was circulated and noted.

It was noted that the closure at the Pink Rock had been extended until 18th February.

(c) North Quays SDZ

B. Tyrrell advised that S. McKeown had attended 2 further meetings of the Steering Committee which had been set up by Waterford CCC to oversee the development of the North Quays SDZ. A more detailed discussion and update on the matter would be given at the February meeting.

Cllr. Dunphy felt that no link was being made by the public between the development of the North Quays and the NPF 2040. He felt that communication was key and that the public should be given more information on how this will impact on the Ferrybank area, whether it be in an official or informal manner. B. Tyrrell agreed to look into the possibility of getting regular updates for the public.

Cllr. O'Neill also requested that a copy of the draft proposals be sought from Waterford City and County Council regarding the new access and works affecting the Abbey Road. This was agreed.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Order or Resolution of the Municipal District Members for transaction at such meetings

None

4. Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

None

5. Notices of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. AOB

Additional items raised by Members:-

Cllr. Doherty

Dumping of Plastics, River Barrow – Cllr. Doherty noted an amount of plastic waste washing up by the Pink Rock area and asked if the issue could be addressed by way of collection of same.

Cllr. O'Neill

Rent Arrears – Cllr. O'Neill raised an issue with regard to Waterford City & County Council tenants having been burdened with rent arrears following the rent review which commenced in 2016. She stated that when the review was completed, the results were backdated to 2016, resulting in arrears which affected quite a number of tenants. Due to these arrears, tenants were unable to have their insulation upgraded or have routine maintenance carried out in their homes. She enquired with other local authorities in the region and found that WCCC appeared to be the only local authority to have backdated the rents, applying the new rent from 2016. She sought the support of the Piltown members in requesting that WCCC drop this debt which had been imposed on tenants. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed with Martin Mullally, Housing Officer in KCC to get all the facts for further discussion at the next meeting.

Launch – Cllr. O'Neill advised that the official launch of the Ferrybank Community First Responders will be held at Abbey Community College on 31st January at 7.00pm, all are welcome.

Cllr. Aylward

24/7 Cardiac Care – Cllr. Aylward advised that a march in protest at the lack of 24/7 cardiac care in Waterford was taking place on Saturday, 19th January, starting from The Glen at 2.00pm and encouraged all to participate.

Cllr. Breathnach

Newfoundland – Cllr. Breathnach advised that preparations were underway to organise a reciprocal visit to Newfoundland in August and he would circulate details shortly.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place Wednesday, 6th February, 2019 at 10am, with meeting in Committee to take place at 9.30am with representatives from An Garda Siochana.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____