

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on
Wednesday, 8th June, 2022 at 10.00am in the Meeting Room, Ferrybank Library**

Present: Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs F. Doherty, T. Breathnach, G. Frisby and E. Aylward

In attendance: S. McKeown, A/Chief Executive Officer, D. Malone, A/Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, District Engineer, D. Donovan, Roadplan, F. Stafford, A/Senior Engineer and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Welcome

Cllr Dunphy took the opportunity to welcome Denis Malone, A/Director of Services who is taking over the role of Director for the Piltown MD. He also thanked Sean McKeown for all his help and advice to members of the Piltown MD over the past number of years and on behalf of all the members, he congratulated him and wished him well in his new role as Acting CEO.

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 4th May, 2022

Proposed by Cllr G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr T. Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

Primary Health Care Centre, Ferrybank – S. McKeown advised that snagging on the property was almost complete and a phased opening of the centre was expected to commence towards the end of July. He confirmed that the building will be fully occupied and outlined the various services which will be provided at the centre. The members welcomed this news and noted the benefits it will bring to the area.

N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme – Cllr Doherty raised concerns that the N25 Scheme will not get the attention it needs to progress to the next phase and urged that the matter be kept on the agenda. S. Cullen confirmed that on foot of the notice of motion passed by the full Council, a letter has issued to TII calling for immediate funding to be provided to progress this scheme to the next phase and response was awaited. S. McKeown also noted that support for the delivery of this Scheme and the N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme were included as an objective in the recently launched Draft Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy 2040 (WMATS), which is being driven by the NTA. He also noted that the scheme will continue to be pursued through forums, including the First Citizens Forum and has the support of each Cathaoirleach and CEO in the South East Region.

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – S. McKeown advised that further correspondence has been issued to NAMA for clarity regarding future security and maintenance arrangements for shared areas, which they have referred to the new owners and response is awaited.

Regional Forum & MASP – S. McKeown advised that response is still awaited on both of these matters and noted the continued consideration by the Department on the establishment of City Development Boards for each of the Metropolitan Areas nationally.

Mobility Management Plan Ferrybank – S. Cullen confirmed that the plan will be reviewed to ensure that it accords with the Draft WMATS and same will be presented to members before it progresses to public consultation.

N24 New Aglish to Grannagh – S. Cullen confirmed that following the passing of notice of motion, a letter issued to TII calling on them to undertake a feasibility assessment and options study for the provision of urgently needed safety improvements and sustainable transport options along the N24, New Aglish to Grannagh Castle and response is awaited.

Congratulations – Cllr Dunphy offered congratulations to the Kilkenny U20 hurling team and to the senior hurling team on winning their Leinster finals.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update South East Greenway

Dermot Donovan, Roadplan and Frank Stafford, A/Senior Engineer were in attendance for this item.

Cllr Dunphy invited D. Donovan to commence his presentation to members in relation to the South East Greenway Links to Glenmore and Slieverue.

D. Donovan outlined the scheme objectives, route characteristics and progress to-date. He stated that the informal public consultation on potential route options has been completed and discussions have been held with affected landowners. Details in relation to submissions received were outlined and it was noted that preferred routes have now been selected for recommendation and approval. D.

Donovan advised on the next steps in the process in relation to planning and design and statutory procedures.

F. Stafford complimented Dermot Donovan and Roadplan for their work on this project to-date which has been quite onerous and confirmed that the public will have another opportunity to engage in the process during the statutory public consultation. He stated the importance of getting planning in place in order to secure the necessary funding and confirmed that Appropriate Assessment screening will commence shortly, followed by the statutory planning process in late July or early August.

D. Donovan responded to a number of queries raised and members thanked D. Donovan, F. Stafford and all involved in progressing this project.

(b) Update Monthly Roadworks

S. Cullen circulated report and outlined works being progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates with regard to the national road schemes.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Access to Grannagh Castle – Cllr Dunphy asked if enquiries could be made to the OPW with regard to access to Grannagh Castle and asked when interpretive signage would be put in place.

ESB connection Piltown – Cllr Dunphy noted delay with ESB connection at Piltown Pedestrian Crossing, S. Cullen agreed to follow up with them.

Mill Road Footpath – Cllr Aylward noted delays in progressing this scheme, S. Cullen stated there was no definitive timeline and noted the challenges around the design of the scheme to best accommodate through traffic and vulnerable road users. It was noted that screening was being carried out at the moment, Part 8 expected to progress in July.

Signage – Cllr Doherty requested painted STOP sign for the road at Buckstown junction, along by hurling field.

Treatment of Ragwort – Cllr Doherty noted improvements and asked that the policy for treatment of ragwort be kept in place.

Speed Limit Review – Cllr Doherty noted closing date for submissions by 10th June and encouraged the public to engage in the process.

R704 Listerlin – Cllr Doherty raised concerns regarding road safety in Listerlin village and urged that work be progressed towards finding a solution. S. Cullen confirmed that options are being explored with regard to funding and improving pedestrian access.

Cllrs. Dunphy and Doherty took the opportunity to compliment all involved on works completed on the Poulanassy Waterfall Car Park and Walking Trail, which is a fantastic amenity for the area and also thanked the landowners for their cooperation.

(c) Draft Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy 2040 (WMATS)

S. McKeown advised that the launch of the WMATS had taken place last week and contains a range of measures and proposals to cater for increased growth in the metropolitan area, providing for increased sustainable transport options including walking, cycling and public transport, improvements to the road network and parking. It was noted that recommendations from the rail review currently underway will also form part of the Strategy. The Draft WMATS is now out to public consultation from 1st June and submissions can be made until 12th July. Two in-person events are also being held at the Tower Hotel on 15th and 16th June and the NTA are encouraging member of the public to engage with the process.

It was noted that D. Malone had been part of the working group established by the NTA in preparing the Draft Strategy and he advised that the NTA have a dedicated portal in place where members of the public can log in and see full details of the draft WMATS and make submissions on same. In response to Cllr. Dunphy regarding funding, D. Malone stated that the NTA are committed to delivering this

Strategy under the National Development Plan 2021 – 2030 and the National Planning Framework 2040.

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. Notice of Motion

Cllr Doherty

“That the Piltown Municipal District would seek to secure funding to provide Lifeguard provision cover at Poulanassy Waterfall, Mullinavat.”

Cllr Doherty sought the support of the Piltown MD members for this motion, given the recent improvements and likely increase in the numbers of people who will visit the waterfall. She noted similar provisions elsewhere in the County and looked to have cover extended to Poulanassy.

It was noted that while there are no designated bathing areas in the County, lifeguard cover has been provided at other locations because of demand and such provision will be a matter for members to agree at budget stage. Following discussion, it was agreed to seek the advice of the Water Safety Officer on this matter, Ms. Regina Moran.

6. Correspondence

None

7. AOB:

S. Cullen confirmed to Cllr Dunphy that following the passing of notice of motion by the Council, a letter has been issued to TII in May regarding safety improvements on the N24 New Aglish to Grannagh Castle and response is awaited.

Cllr Dunphy raised issue concerning public lighting at Piltown, where there are outages on a regular basis and asked that the matter be resolved. S. Cullen agreed to look into the matter and revert to Cllr Dunphy.

Cllr Aylward took the opportunity to wish all students well on commencing the Leaving and Junior Cert exams this morning, noting the very tough and disruptive two years they have had during covid.

Cllr. Dunphy thanked all for attending. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: *dk. Fidelis Doherty*
Cathaoirleach

Dated: 6/7/22