

**Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
4th December, 2024 at 2:00pm at Ferrybank Library Meeting Room**

Present: Cllrs G. Frisby, J. Catt Slattery, P. Dunphy, T. Breathnach and F. Doherty
In attendance: I. Gardner, A/Director of Services, J. Tennyson, District Engineer, M. Phelan, Meetings Administrator and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

At the outset, Cllr Frisby took the opportunity to commend all those who stood for election and congratulated fellow Cllr Peter Cleere who will be a huge asset to the District and is a great honour for him and his family and wished him all the best. Cllr Frisby also congratulated John McGuinness, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Catherine O'Callaghan and Natasha Newsome Drennan on their election and wished them all the best in their term in office.

1. **Minutes of Budget Meeting held 6th November, 2024** – proposed by Cllr Catt Slattery, seconded by Cllr Breathnach and agreed.
Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 6th November, 2024 – proposed by Cllr Catt Slattery, seconded by Cllr Breathnach and agreed.

Matters Arising

Traffic congestion, Ferrybank GAA Club – J. Tennyson advised Cllr Dunphy that no formal taking in charge application has yet been received from Waterford City and County Council, but that preliminary talks have taken place with them regarding the road and estate and a formal application is expected in Q1 of 2025.

LIS Clarification – J. Tennyson confirmed to Cllr Dunphy that official clarification is awaited from the Department. He advised that information on the current qualifying criteria has been circulated to members today via email and an update will be provided once a response has been received from the Department.

2. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

- (a) **Monthly Roadworks Update**

J. Tennyson, Area Engineer, circulated report outlining details of pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works progressed and completed over the period since the last meeting, including updates on other schemes – N24 Waterford to Cahir, N24 Carrick Road, North-South Link Road, Abbey Road/Belmont Road upgrades, N29 Port Road upgrade and Piltown RRDF.

The following was raised and discussed:-

Local MD Grant, Listerlin Improvement design – J. Tennyson advised that the Consultants are asking for a local consultation with residents early in the new year to discuss proposals. J. Tennyson agreed to arrange and revert to members in the new year.

Piltown RRDF, Memorial Plaque – J. Tennyson proposed that Committee members would meet with the RRDF team to discuss suggestions and form proposals for the Consultants to work with. J. Tennyson agreed to arrange a meeting in this regard.

Rural Local Roads Speed Limits – J. Tennyson advised that signage works are due to commence on the implementation of a new 60km/h default speed limit on rural roads. It was agreed by the Department of Transport that the changeover date be set for 7th February, 2025 and all statutory instruments will commence on that date. Updates for the urban speed limits signage is to be advised by Q2 2025, which will include any changes to existing bye-laws. J. Tennyson advised that all signage has been procured and works will commence in the coming weeks.

N25 Speed Camera – J. Tennyson advised that a new static speed camera is to be installed between Luffany and Glenmore at Ballinclare junction on behalf of An Garda Síochána. This is part of a pilot project, with 9 cameras being installed Countrywide, locations based on fatal and serious injury collision data from the last 7 years and speed data, as well as feedback from stakeholders. This will come into operation end Q1 2025. J. Tennyson confirmed that this will operate on a 24 hour basis in both directions and fixed penalty notices and fines will issue to offenders, which will aim to slow traffic and reduce collisions and fatalities. Following discussion and noting the number of fatalities and incidents at this junction, J. Tennyson agreed to revert to members regarding the reasoning for installation of a static speed camera instead of average speed camera at this location.

Cllr Doherty welcomed this addition to road safety, noting the urgent need for funding to be provided to progress the N25 Waterford to Glenmore and N24 Waterford to Cahir Schemes.

Cllr Breathnach asked for feedback to be provided to members on the impact of the N25 speed camera, including speeds before and after it becomes operational. J. Tennyson advised that a speed survey can be carried out before and after installation.

Cllr Breathnach noted completion of the village renewal works in Kilmacow, with works being completed at the Sports Complex, he took the opportunity to thank all involved in bringing proposals to fruition.

(b) Greenway Update

An update report was circulated to members, the contents of which were noted.

I Gardner confirmed that paving works are completed on Lot 5A from Ferrybank to Curraghmore, fencing and works at all agricultural crossings are nearing completion, public lighting installation is ongoing at a number of locations. It was noted that this section is on target for completion by year end, with opening expected in Q1 2025 following safety audit process.

It was noted that the consultation process on the South-North Link Road at the end of October, it is expected that a planning report and recommendations will go before the Council this month.

It was also noted that a pilot research project by TII and Failte Ireland is currently underway, which is aimed at developing a methodology for monitoring the use and impact of Ireland's Greenways and some of the survey results were noted, with Greenways proving to be hugely beneficial to the local economy.

I Gardner confirmed that a copy of the report on submissions and recommendations in relation to the Southern Connectivity Link to Slieverue can be presented to the Piltown MD prior to going before the Council in January.

Cllr Doherty sought clarification on the completion of boundary fencing at the Car Park, Ballyverneen, I Gardner to revert to members on this.

Cllr Doherty asked if there is a programme in place for maintenance of the Greenway and if same could be carried out.

(c) North Quays SDZ Update

An update report was circulated to members, the contents of which were noted.

Cllr Frisby raised concern over the traffic lights at the junction of Abbey Road and Fountain Street, which are causing major issues with traffic congestion. I Gardner agreed to raise this issue with the Contractor to ensure the lights are operating correctly.

Cllr Breathnach raised concern that the newly built wall was interfering with the view of the South Quays from the Abbey Road side and which appears quite sterile.

Cllr Dunphy referred to the response received from Waterford City and County Council in relation to the Sustainable Transport Bridge and shuttle bus service originally proposed for same.

I Gardner noted from the response that the focus is now on improving the bus network through the BusConnects Programme, which includes two new routes coming across Rice Bridge, however the bridge specification remains the same and wont preclude the provision of shuttle bus service in future.

It was agreed that this item will be placed on the Agenda for the next joint meeting with WCCC for further discussion and clarification.

M. Phelan advised that there has been a request from Denis Malone to bring forward the joint meeting with Waterford to January, as further consultation is required in relation to the Ferrybank LAP and Joint Retail Strategy. M. Phelan to revert to members with date.

(d) Ferrybank Shopping Centre

It was noted that Denis Malone has written to Dunnes Stores advising that the Masterplan for Belview-Ferrybank is at an advanced stage and requesting a meeting with them to discuss same, I Gardner to revert with update in due course.

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

Notice of Motion submitted in the names of all Piltown MD Members:-

"That the members write to the Minister for Transport in support of Waterford Airport in its endeavours to secure funding from the Department to further develop the airport given its strategic importance to the economic development of the Southeast region and in particular to enable business and tourism growth and development in County Kilkenny."

Cllr Frisby confirmed that this motion is submitted in support of colleagues in Waterford CC to get this important matter to Government level and seek engagement from the Minister to enable growth and development of the Airport for the benefit of the whole South East Region. Cllr Breathnach suggested that this motion also be brought to the Plenary Meeting, this was agreed.

6. Correspondence

None

7. AOB:

Traffic, St. Mary's Boys NS, Ferrybank – Cllr Dunphy referred to the ongoing congestion around the Boys National School, Ferrybank and asked about the waste ground adjacent the school and if discussion could be had with WCCC to come up with a solution to this issue. J. Tennyson advised that this is included in the Draft LAP, to seek to address this matter between both local authorities.

Abbeylands Estate – Cllr Dunphy asked if there is through access at Abbeylands housing estate or if same is planned. J. Tennyson agreed to seek clarification from WCCC in this regard.

Clover Centre – Cllr Doherty asked if update could be provided on the overall plan and progress at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 8th January 2025 at 2:00pm.

Cllr Frisby thanked all for attending and wished all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____

08/01/2025

