

Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Piltown – Area Office, Ferrybank

Date of Meeting: 3rd September, 2014 at 10.00am
Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Eamon Aylward
Present: Cllrs. Pat Dunphy, Ger Frisby, Fidelis Doherty, Melissa O’Neill, Tomás Breathnach
In Attendance: Kevin Hanley, Meetings Administrator, Ian Gardner, Area Engineer, Seamus Foley, Callan Area Engineer, Oonagh Bannon, SO
Apologies: John McCormack, Director of Services

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from meeting of 21st July were proposed by Cllr. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Dunphy and agreed.

Matters Arising

Cllr. Dunphy asked if a request for assistance had been made to Ucasadh in relation to elderly people and maintenance of derelict sites. O. Bannon confirmed that contact had been made, but no assistance was available in the Piltown area. However, it was noted that improvements were being made to the particular site in question and this would be followed up.

Cllr. Dunphy also asked if contact had been made with NAMA and Dunnes Stores regarding the Ferrybank Shopping Centre. K. Hanley advised that contact would be made with NAMA once contact details had been received from Planning Section.

Cllr. Doherty asked if progress had been made with regard to lessening the cost of C.I.R. schemes for residents. I. Gardner advised that he would raise this at the next meeting of Area Engineers.

Cllr. Doherty asked when works on the new bus stop at Glenmore would commence. I. Gardner advised that this would commence following completion of the Low Cost Improvement Scheme due to commence at Listerlin shortly.

Update on Roadworks Programme 2014

Ian Gardner outlined the current position with regard to expenditure and completion of works, as set out in the report circulated to Members.

The following items were discussed:-

- Cllr. Dunphy asked about the recycling scheme on the Bog Road and if same was successful. I. Gardner advised that while it appeared to be successful, same would be observed over the next 12 months or so and consideration could be given to similar schemes where suitable.
- Cllr. Frisby asked when road markings would be completed at the Milepost. I. Gardner advised that there were a number of locations to be completed across the area and were due to commence shortly.
- Ian Gardner advised the members that following contract works to install new watermains at Tybroughney, Ballinaboley and Ullid, the Contractor concerned had agreed to make a financial contribution in lieu of completing permanent reinstatement works. In this regard, it was proposed to defer the scheme from Dunkitt to Miltown Cross and divert this funding to carry out works on complete sections of road in these areas instead of the works proposed by the Contractor. This was agreed.
- An updated list of applications under the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme was circulated. Cllr. Frisby asked if patching works could be carried out on these roads, while waiting to be completed under the Scheme. He referred in particular to a road at Drumdowney, which was used by the Brothers of Charity transporting disabled members of the community. Cllr. Frisby was advised to submit this item as a representation for consideration.
- It was noted that the low cost improvement scheme at Listerlin would commence in approximately 2-3 weeks time to redefine the junction and improve visibility.
- Cllr. Aylward asked if the sign at Tess McDonald’s would soon be erected. It was noted that delays had occurred with this matter, but that same would be attended to as soon as possible.
- Cllr. Breathnach asked about drainage works at Upper Street, Kilmacow. I. Gardner advised that a response was still awaited from the landowner to allow works to proceed.
- Cllr. O’Neill asked if there was any allocation for lining or road markings in housing estates. She was referring in particular to a dangerous situation at the junction into the Abbeylands estate where cars were parking. Following discussion, it was noted that while there was no allocation for such works, it was illegal to park within 5 metres of a “STOP” sign, which could be referred to the Gardai for attention.

It was also noted that this estate was not in charge and still in the ownership of Waterford City Council. Cllr. Breathnach suggested that this could be addressed during the process of the review of the Ferrybank Local Area Plan. *It was agreed that this matter would be taken up with Planning Section to try to progress the taking in charge process, to include this estate and the Ardaire estate.*

- Cllr. Dunphy again asked for the sign on the Carrick Road approaching Mooncoin to be repaired or replaced if possible with a sign showing the speed of vehicles, which he felt would be more effective. Following discussion it was agreed to include this road when the speed limit review was being undertaken, but in the meantime I. Gardner would follow up with the Contractor regarding replacement of the sign.
- Cllr. Doherty raised drainage issue at Deerpark, Mullinavat near Holden's. I. Gardner advised that a schedule of works would need to be prepared to carry out cleaning of drains in the area, as it involved hiring of necessary equipment, assigning staff and machinery etc. Cllr. O'Neill also raised an issue at the Bullring in Slieverue and was advised to submit a representation in this regard.
- Cllr. Dunphy asked if consideration could be given to maintenance of the old burial ground at Owing. He stated that elderly local people had been maintaining it, but were no longer in a position to do so. It was noted that the allocation from Environment Section only allowed for 1 or maybe 2 cuts per year in burial grounds being maintained by the Council, however I. Gardner advised that he planned to set out a schedule for grass cutting in the area and assign a crew to this type of work in the future.
- Cllr. Doherty asked why works had been carried out on the N25 at Raheen, as some locals felt it was unnecessary. I. Gardner advised that the NRA do their own mechanical testing on national routes which is not just based on the condition of the road surface but the whole structure of the road. It was noted that these works are funded separately.

Roundabouts Ferrybank

A discussion took place in relation to the 4 roundabouts constructed as part of the Waterford City By-pass PPP Scheme. Drawings prepared by Ian Gardner on each of the roundabouts were circulated to the members. He advised that he had been in contact with South Link, who maintain the Quarry and Luffany Roundabouts on behalf of CRG, to highlight safety concerns. However, he was advised that they had carried out a safety audit on same and did not propose to carry out any major improvements.

Following further discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and agreed that a representative of South Link/CRG be invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns at these roundabouts.

It was noted that works had been completed at the Newrath Roundabout to improve skid resistance and that future consideration would be given to landscaping.

With regard to the Belmont Roundabout, it was noted that a safety audit was being considered to assess skid resistance and markings.

A drawing was also circulated to the members showing the landscaping proposal for the roundabout at the Ferrybank Shopping Centre.

Update on Poulanassa Waterfall

Drawings were circulated to the members regarding land acquisition and design proposals. I. Gardner advised that provision would be made for approximately 30 parking spaces, with improvements to visibility and safety. It was noted that the Council were awaiting a response from the landowner regarding land acquisition.

Provision of Footpaths

As agreed at the September meeting, I. Gardner circulated details of costings in relation to a total of 17 schemes, which had been submitted by members for consideration. It was agreed at a previous meeting to put a programme in place for the provision of footpaths, similar to the public lighting programme. However, it was noted that the total cost of proposed schemes would be approximately €1.2m, but realistically annual funding available would be in the region of €50,000.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the members would consider and prioritise the list of schemes with a view to agreeing a programme at the next meeting. *The Mill Road, Mullinavat was to be included on the list and costings recirculated to the members before the October meeting.*

Any Other Business

- ***Local Roads and Gas Crossings***

Cllr. Doherty raised this matter, stating that she had received complaints about the condition of the road at Curraghmore, Slieverue following works there. I. Gardner advised that he had inspected all works sites and had not noted anything excessive. However, it was noted that a road opening licence had issued to cover all works and that a bond was in place to cover any issues that may arise regarding reinstatement.

- ***Ragwort***

Cllr. Doherty stated that there was an expectation on farmers and landowners to keep their lands clear of ragwort, yet it was a serious problem along the roadside. I. Gardner agreed stating that it was an onerous responsibility to control its growth, with care needed in removing it. He advised that consideration would be given to perhaps getting a specialised contractor to deal with it in the area at specific locations.

- ***Rock near Delaney's Pub at The Slatequarries***

Cllr. Dunphy raised safety concerns about a large rock on the roadside, which had been struck often by vehicles and asked for safety measures to be taken to improve safety by painting it or warning signage. Seamus Foley, Callan Area Engineer advised that he had inspected the area noting that the road edge at this location was defined by yellow lines and the rock in question was 8-9 inches inside these lines. He felt that painting of the rock would be of little benefit and in fact may cause a danger by creating a distraction or pushing traffic out on the road. The position was noted and the matter would be monitored.

A discussion also took place on the area boundaries and any proposed works in the new area coming under the Ferrybank Office jurisdiction. It was noted that provision of a footpath in Newmarket may not be undertaken for some time due to lack of funding, as it was quite a large scheme.

- ***Clover Meadows to Abbey Road, Ferrybank***

Cllr. Doherty raised this matter asking what the proposals were to improve access for residents in this area. A discussion ensued and it was noted that it was an objective of the Ferrybank Local Area Plan to develop a new river crossing and improve road links in the area, to include this location. I. Gardner circulated an extract from the LAP in this regard, which is currently under review.

Cllr. Aylward asked for an update regarding the smarter travel plan for Ferrybank. I. Gardner advised that the initial plan prepared in 2013 had been revised, which would be smaller with more detail. It was noted that while surveys had been carried out, the design had yet to be completed but this would be completed in due course and would go through the Part 8 process, including public consultation.

- ***Raheen – waste ground on the N25***

Cllr. Doherty asked what the position was in relation to a plot of ground on the N25 at Raheen, which appeared to be used as an unofficial halting site, with a number of caravan's currently parked there. It was noted that the ground in question was adjacent to a property which had recently been refurbished by the Housing Section. *I. Gardner agreed to raise the matter with the Planning Section as it appeared to be an unauthorised development.*

Cllr. O'Neill asked for update regarding the reopening of Abbey Road at Rathculliheen where a section of wall had collapsed. The position was noted.

Other items were raised, however members were advised to submit same as representations.

Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place at 10am on Wednesday, 1st October.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____