

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG HELD
IN MCGRATH HALL, BAGENALSTOWN, CO. CARLOW ON THURSDAY, 2nd
APRIL, 2015 AT 4.00PM**

PRESENT

Cllrs. John Murphy (Chairperson), Tommy Kinsella, Michael Doran, Andy Gladney, Arthur McDonald and Denis Foley.

APOLOGIES

Cllrs. Willie Quinn and Charlie Murphy.

IN ATTENDANCE

Tim Butler: Senior Executive Officer, Michael Brennan: Senior Executive Officer and Ray Wickham: Area Engineer.

Note: In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, it was agreed that Cllr. John Murphy would act in the Chair.

ITEM NO. 1: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG OF 5th MARCH, 2015.

Proposed by Cllr. Michael Doran

Seconded by Cllr. Tommy Kinsella

AND RESOLVED

“That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th March, 2015, as circulated, are hereby confirmed as to accuracy and, accordingly, signed by the Cathaoirleach.”

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Rea family on the death of Michael Rea, Ballinabrannagh, Co. Carlow.
- Reddy family on the death of Joe Reddy, Conway Park, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.
- Brennan family on the death of Mrs. Brennan, Main Street, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.
- Brennan Family on the death of Ger Brennan, Royal Oak, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

MATTERS ARISING

The issue of charging for parking in Muinebheag Railway Station was again raised. Members were informed that a letter had issued to Iarnrod Eireann and a reminder would issue. Also, Members requested that a letter be sent to the Minister for Tourism and Transportation. It appears to be having a negative impact at a station where there are ample car-parking spaces and it is pushing cars out onto the public road.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE

Members were informed that an email was received regarding parking problems on adjoining roads, as a result of the parking charges at the Railway Station.

Members were informed of proposed rehabilitation works at Whitemills Bridge and localised re-alignment in the vicinity.

Members asked that the Roads Section issue a letter to the NRA requesting that they take responsibility for maintenance of the former N9.

ITEM NO. 3: STATUTORY BUSINESS

None

ITEM NO. 4: HOUSING

Members were informed that funding of €20 million had been announced for Carlow for the years 2015 – 2017 to provide 435 units - this is both capital construction and leasing projects. The 6 houses in Borris are progressing. In reply to questions raised, Members were informed that the Manor House apartments would be for single applicants/couples with no families and Members were asked to notify the Council of individuals that may be suited to this accommodation.

ITEM NO. 5: TRANSPORTATION

Members raised the following;

Whether measures could be taken to improve safety on the Royal Oak Road/former N9, particularly the junction.

If Iarnrod Eireann could carry out improvement works on Kilcarrig Bridge – particularly the fencing, as soon as possible. Road signs at Billibar Cross have been removed – can they be replaced? Also, can new signs that cannot be easily removed be examined? Ray Wickham set out that he has met representatives of Iarnrod Eireann who are looking at works on both Kilcarrig Bridge and Wells Bridge.

ITEM NO. 6: ENVIRONMENT/WATER SERVICES

Members were informed that works were underway to repair the water supply at the graveyard in Bagenalstown. The need to clean the pathways and to consider the possible future extension of the graveyard were also discussed.

Members asked that the loss of pressure on the outskirts of Leighlinbridge be reported to Water Services and investigated.

Members noted that a new Directive in relation to pesticides is being introduced and asked if an update could be provided to members at a subsequent meeting.

ITEM NO. 7: COMMUNITY

Members were informed of the criteria for consideration for community grants and also that the Environmental Amenity Grant application date was past. A report would be provided to the next meeting in respect of these grants.

The process of preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (6 year plan) has commenced. The draft will be presented to both Municipal Districts prior to adaptation by Council.

CCDP were the successful tenderer for the distribution of the SICAP funds for 2015 – amounting to circa €400,000. Projects will be monitored by the LCDC.

Kieran Comerford attended to update members on the activity of the Local Enterprise Office, under the following headings;

- Financial supports – grants/loans
- Non-financial supports – training and mentoring

- IDA Economic Development Service
- Development and promotional work including the Local Economic Plan
- Engagement with the IDA/Enterprise Ireland

Councillors complemented the report and presentation and welcomed developments in Carlow. Members would support the development of business parks throughout the County which have been very successful in the past. They also commented that a visit by the IDA would be welcomed. Members asked if vacant business sites could be put up for tender.

ITEM NO. 8: RECREATION & AMENITY

Members asked that Waterways Ireland be requested to address the Municipal District prior to lodging proposed planning application for the Barrow Track.

ITEM NO. 9: PLANNING

Members raised a query in relation to zoning and to the proposed developments of a tourism nature. Members were informed that this is best addressed through pre-planning enquiries.

ITEM 10: LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

These matters were addressed under agenda item 7.

ITEM NO. 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Gladney informed the meeting that Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland was visiting Carlow and Tullow on Saturday, 4th April, 2015, Members were invited to attend.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date