

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG HELD
IN MCGRATH HALL, BAGENALSTOWN, CO. CARLOW ON THURSDAY, 4TH
DECEMBER, 2014 AT 4.00PM**

PRESENT

Cllrs. Willie Quinn, Michael Doran, Denis Foley, Andy Gladney, Tommy Kinsella, Charlie Murphy, John Murphy and Arthur McDonald.

IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus O'Connor: Director of Services(Municipal District Manager), Tim Butler: Senior Executive Officer, Ray Wickham, Area Engineer.

ITEM NO. 1: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG OF 6TH NOVEMBER, 2014.

Proposed by Cllr. Michael Doran

Seconded by Cllr. John Murphy

AND RESOLVED

“That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th November, 2014, as circulated, are hereby confirmed as to accuracy and, accordingly, signed by the Cathaoirleach.”

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations were expressed for the success of the recent Bizfest seminar held in Co Carlow – Cllr. Willie Quinn.

ITEM NO. 2: CORRESPONDENCE

A letter received from John Somers Construction Ltd. dated 25th November, 2014 was read out. It was agreed that the MD manager would write back confirming receipt of same and advising that the contents have been noted and the letter has been sent to the Nationalist for their information.

ITEM NO. 3: STATUTORY BUSINESS

It was agreed that the Municipal District would review the meeting's schedule in the New-Year.

ITEM NO. 4: HOUSING (Update on Housing Strategy)

Seamus O'Connor welcomed and set out the details of the Housing Strategy which includes for construction directly by Local Authorities, Approved Housing Bodies and PPP's. Carlow County Council will have proposals in hand to go to tender as soon as possible in the New Year in an effort to secure funding as soon as possible. The re-introduction of the Tenant Purchase Scheme is highlighted in the Strategy. The Manager also set out other areas in the Towns in the Muinebheag Municipal District where we could put forward further proposals. The Strategy and developments were welcomed by the Members.

In relation to the Manor House proposal in Bagenalstown, the expected delivery date is April, 2015. It is hoped to link the Manor House development to a town enhancement proposal also. The use of the car park will also be reviewed before occupation.

ITEM NO. 5: TRANSPORTATION

The NRA has been contacted with regard to the specific items raised in regard to works on the N80 but to date, no response has been received. Particular attention is required from the motorway to the Fighting Cocks and at the Whitemills, Kilbride to the County Bounds.

In regard to the repair and maintenance of public lights, it was raised that response times would appear to have dis-improved in the past year. Ray Wickham set out that the contract was due for review in mid 2015. Members were informed that a lighting issue on Royal Oak Road was an ESB problem rather than an Airtricity issue. Cllr Foley requested that lighting in Cummins Park be examined as it may be contributing to anti-social behavior in the area. The matter of debris in a field adjacent to Cummins Park was also raised and members were informed that the ESB had been notified of the registered owners.

In relation to the bus shelter in Leighlinbridge, Ray Wickham is to contact Cllr Foley in the coming weeks.

In reply to a question Members were informed that funding of €1,200 was provided for Muinebheag for 2014 for Christmas lights.

In relation to the proposal for a cycle track on the River Barrow, it was welcomed by Cllr. Arthur McDonald in so far as it related to Bagenalstown. The consensus appeared to be that Members would welcome sensitive development in the area. Dredging of the river remains a concern as it is making navigation difficult and potentially leading to flooding.

Cats eyes on N9 – it is hoped that a rolling programme of repair/ replacement would be undertaken and funding is being sought. Members were informed that the additional regional roads designated (former N9) was not matched by additional funding.

Items to be raised at Council Meetings:

1. N80 improvement
2. Public lighting
3. Parks and wildlife
4. Housing Strategy

ITEM NO. 6: ENVIRONMENT

Matters discussed included:

1. Monies for lights welcomed
2. Possibility of undergrounding of ESB cables in Borris
3. Purchase of lands at Borris for car parking – Council to consider
4. Consideration should be given to sweeping leaves from paths in Towns and Villages – RW informed the meeting that sweeping had commenced and would be completed in the coming two weeks

ITEM NO. 7: COMMUNITY

The Gateway Scheme operating in Carlow/Tullow at present is being extended to Bagenalstown in the new-year.

In regard to the LCDC, there are four local authority members on the Committee. An Economic and Community Plan is to be prepared in 2015, and work is already underway on the Economic Plan section.

Clarification will be sought in relation to the Warmer Homes Scheme, which members were informed is possibly being discontinued and Councillors will be informed of the position.

ITEM NO. 8: RECREATION & AMENITY

On a question of maintenance of parks, it was stated that the Council carry out any necessary repairs to equipment.

ITEM NO. 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Denis Foley:

- Disability parking bay outside Step House, Borris.
- Graveyard in Leighlinbridge – roots of tree causing difficulty.

Cllr. Andy Gladney:

- Disability parking bay outside house at Fairgreen.
- In reply to a query members were informed that the Traffic Plan for Borris is at a standstill at present due to funding.

Cllr. Thomas Kinsella

- On the matter of the Cemetery at St. Mullins, the Council is not having any success in securing additional lands in the area due to the environmental sensitivity of the area.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date