

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

Date of Meeting: 1st October, 2014 at 10.00am
Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Eamon Aylward
Present: Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty, Tomás Breathnach, Melissa O’Neill, Ger Frisby, Pat Dunphy
In Attendance: Kevin Hanley, Meetings Administrator, Lindsey Butler, Brid Hynes & Elise Hannon, Community & Culture Dept and Oonagh Bannon, SO
Apologies: John McCormack, Director of Services

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from meeting of 3rd September, proposed by Cllr. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Frisby and agreed.

Matters Arising

- Cllr. Doherty asked for update on the Low Cost Improvement Scheme at Listerlin. She also asked about the Bus Shelter and Weighbridge for Glenmore, raising concerns about safety. Update would be given on these items at the next meeting.
- Cllr. Aylward asked if an invitation had been extended to South Link to attend a Municipal District meeting. O. Bannon confirmed that an invitation had been sent for the November meeting.
- Cllr. Aylward also asked if NAMA had been written to regarding the Ferrybank Shopping Centre. K. Hanley confirmed that a letter had issued and a response was awaited.
- Cllr. Breathnach asked for update regarding the taking in charge of Abbeylands and Ard Daire estates. Planning Section confirmed that they had not received taking in charge applications in relation to either of these estates. It was noted that the local authority must receive an application from the developer or a majority of house owners in order to commence the taking in charge process and the completion of same would be dependent on funding.

Update on Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) & Public Participation Network (PPN)

Structures

Lindsey Butler outlined to the members the process surrounding the establishment of the new LCDC and PPN structures and progress in this regard. She outlined the three main functions of the LCDC, which were the preparation of a six year Local Economic and Community Plan, implementation of the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme and the Rural Development Programme. She advised that in preparing the LECP, account would be taken of the plans already in place with their key priorities being included under the new plan. She went on to outline membership of the LCDC, stating that the new structure while being somewhat independent would be supported by the Local Authority in providing assistance to manage and control the administration of its functions.

The members posed a number of questions in relation to the process and a discussion ensued regarding the operation of the LCDC and the role of the Local Authority within the new structure. Following this discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Breathnach that this item be kept on the agenda for Municipal District meetings to keep the local members updated regarding issues relevant to South Kilkenny. This was seconded by Cllr. Doherty and agreed.

Lindsey Butler then outlined the process of establishing the PPN structure. She advised that there are three pillars within the PPN of social inclusion, community and environment, with the new structure providing an opportunity for greater input into local government, as it is designed to have a more collective approach to dealing with issues locally. She stated that a number of public meetings had been held countywide in order to encourage as many groups as possible to get involved and register for the Kilkenny Public Participation Network. It was noted that while there was no official deadline for registration, it was proposed to establish the PPN in November, so that the process of nominations to the LCDC, SPC’s etc could commence.

A discussion followed, during which it was noted that each PPN would be resourced and supported through the Local Authority. This raised concern amongst members with regard to the financial implications. It was agreed to discuss this matter further with John McCormack, DOS, with a view to writing to the Department to highlight these concerns.

Cllr. Aylward thanked the staff of the Community & Culture Department for their presentation.

Dunkitt Flooding

Kevin Hanley outlined the position to date with regard to this matter, stating that the issue had been ongoing for a number of years. He advised that following the serious flood in 2009, an investigation followed which identified problems that have since been rectified by the County Council and Iarnrod Eireann. However, it was noted that a third party, a private landowner, had yet to address issues on his land to prevent further flooding occurring and planning application lodged for this purpose had now lapsed. A discussion followed on how best to resolve the issue and the options open to the Council. It was hoped that perhaps the local community may be able to resolve the matter on the ground, in order to avoid enforcement proceedings by the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and agreed that we examine the community aspect initially, giving residents the opportunity to resolve the matter locally.

It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting for update. Cllr. Breathnach wished to thank Simon Walton for all his efforts in trying to resolve this matter, which were very much appreciated.

Fix Date for Draft Budget Plan Meeting

It was noted that the Draft Budget Plan Meeting would take place on Wednesday, 8th October at 2.30pm.

Any Other Business

- ***Hedge Cutting***

Cllr. Doherty raised this matter stating that while landowners were being encouraged to undertake hedge cutting on their lands, the feeling in some areas was that if they failed to do so, the County Council would undertake this work. K. Hanley stated that this was not the case and that the responsibility lay with the landowner. It was noted that the Council issued notices to landowners, particularly for areas which had been drawn to their attention by way of complaints. However, in two cases which were particularly dangerous, the Council carried out the work and sought to recover costs from the landowner.

Cllr. Breathnach suggested that in future cases where landowners do not comply with notices and the Council are considering carrying out the works, that perhaps an estimate of costs should be given to the landowner, which may serve as an incentive for them to undertake the works themselves.

Cllr. Dunphy suggested that the G.S.S. in each area should be highlighting problem areas also, with a view to issuing notices.

- ***Recycling Facility at Rosbercon***

Cllr. Doherty advised that Wexford County Council proposed to close the recycling facility currently in operation at Rosbercon. She was very disappointed with this proposal, as the facility was an invaluable service which was used by the wider community, including Kilkenny residents. She sought the support of the other members in writing to Wexford County Council requesting that the facility be retained. It was noted that there may be health and safety concerns with regard to access at the site. Cllr. Dunphy was in support, stating that it would be a huge loss to the local community. Cllr. O'Neill also supported the retention of the facility, however she felt more information about the health and safety concerns should be sought. Following further discussion, Cllr. Breathnach suggested that this particular matter could be raised at a joint meeting with New Ross.

It was proposed by Cllr. Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Doherty and agreed that the joint meetings with New Ross be reactivated and that we also engage with Waterford County Council to establish a similar platform to discuss matters of mutual concern.

- ***River Suir***

Cllr. Dunphy asked that the OPW be contacted again regarding flooding caused by breaches of the River Suir, which was destroying good farm lands in the area. It was agreed that the matter would be raised with John Mulholland and placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____