

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
6th January, 2021 at 10.00am via MS Teams***

Present: Cllr. Eamon Aylward, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs. P. Dunphy, F. Doherty, T. Breathnach and G. Frisby

In attendance: S. McKeown, Director of Services, M. Arthurs, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, Area Engineer and O. Bannon, Staff Officer

Outset

Cllr. Aylward began the meeting by wishing all a happy new year. He took the opportunity to congratulate the Kilkenny Camogie team on their great success in winning the All-Ireland title for 2020. He also extended congratulations to Piltown native, Karen Duggan who was named Women's National League Player of the Year and also on her success with Peamount United, who won both the FAI Women's Cup and Woman's National League titles in 2020.

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 2nd December, 2020

Proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. F. Doherty and agreed.

Matters Arising

Cllr. Doherty raised concern with regard to local road conditions in the current cold spell, particularly among the farming community who were experiencing difficulties with milk collection and bulk feed deliveries. She asked if perhaps a supply of salt could be provided which could be spread locally. SC advised that salting was being carried out over the past week or so since the start of the cold spell and in addition to Priority 1 and 2 salting routes, Priority 3 routes were also treated which tend to focus on school areas and steep hills. However, it was noted that there is a limit to what can be treated in any one night, but it will continue as long as is required within the limitations. SC confirmed that ample stocks were in place and did not foresee any problem with supplies.

All the members welcomed the addition of the priority 3 routes given the current weather conditions. Cllr. Breathnach referred to discussion at the December meeting, during which it was agreed to discuss the winter programme earlier in the year and now suggested that this be brought forward to March, which can inform the programme for 2021/2022. This was agreed.

Cllr. Doherty asked for an update in relation to the Glenmore Bus Stop and Weighbridge and also the route selection for the N25 Glenmore to Waterford Scheme. SC agreed to check the position in relation to the route selection with Road Design, which will inform the Bus Stop & Weighbridge. **Action SC.** Cllr. Frisby and Aylward hoped there would be progress soon in relation to the route selection for N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme, which had initially been expected last June. Cllr. Dunphy agreed that this and other major road Schemes were taking far too long and the matter should be raised at full Council level.

Cllr. Frisby thanked all staff involved in the repatriation of the homeless gentleman in the Ferrybank area, in particular Niall O'Callaghan, Technician, who had put huge work into the process and who was still liaising with the various authorities to ensure his safe return to Sweden. Cllr. Frisby and members wished the gentleman all the best on his journey and thanked all involved for their efforts.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update on Taking in Charge Developments

Una Kealy, Administrative Officer, Planning joined the meeting for this item. She circulated details for the Piltown MD, which included seven no. developments and set out the proposed works programme for 2021 in relation to each development. U. Kealy advised as follows:-

- Banagher Court, Piltown – the majority of works to be completed Q1 2021, with a view to taking in charge in Q2 2021
- Belfield, Ferrybank – works to be finalised in Q1 2021, KCC awaiting receipt of Bond, hoped to be taken in charge in Q2 2021
- Roseleigh, Mooncoin – it is hoped to finalise the taking in charge process by Q4 2021.

It was noted that while these three developments will be the priority in the current year, the remaining developments at Filbuckstown, Arbourmount, Greenoaks and Farmleigh, will be reviewed later in the year with a view to establishing if the taking in charge process can commence in these developments during 2022.

Discussion followed, all members acknowledging the huge progress made in relation to progressing taking in charge of developments across the County over the last number of years and all wished to thank Una Kealy, Alan Hyland and their predecessors Annette Fitzpatrick and Anne Maria Walsh for their efforts.

It was agreed to circulate a copy of the update to members, to include information on whether the taking in charge process had been initiated by the developer or residents in each case. **Action MA**
Cllr. Aylward thanked Una Kealy for her report and update and she withdrew from the meeting.

(b) Update Monthly Roadworks

SC circulated report prior to the meeting and outlined works undertaken and completed since the last meeting, including discretionary maintenance, drainage and other works.

Cllr. Aylward asked what the current position was in relation to Poulanssy Waterfall. SC confirmed that the tender report was currently being reviewed by Management and progress on this is expected shortly.

Cllr. Doherty thanked SC and crew for drainage works undertaken at Ballycurrin.

Cllr. Aylward asked when the Programme for 2021 will be ready for discussion, SC advised that if allocations are assigned before the next meeting he will be able to consult with members on what additional schemes can be included on the programme. It was noted that 2021 is the final year of the current 3 year Roadworks Programme.

(c) Update South East Greenway

SMcK circulated update report prior to the meeting, which outlined as follows:-

- **Rail and Sleeper Lifting Contract:** All of the rails and sleepers have now been lifted.
- **Detailed Design:** for the main construction works (i.e. accommodation works, structures, crossing points, etc.) along the route of the Greenway is continuing.
- **Greenway Car Parks at New Ross and Glenmore:** As previously advised Part 8 planning for Greenway car parks at the Boatyard, Raheen and near Glenmore roundabout were approved subject to conditions at the November Council Meeting.
- **Ferrybank Car Park Option:** The public engagement process for the selection of a suitable site for the proposed Ferrybank Car Park to bring to Part 8 is progressing. An information leaflet was distributed to over 1,600 households in the Ferrybank area in late November. The leaflet provided background to the Greenway project and encouraged householders to participate in the survey. Over 140 online responses were received. The survey confirmed that the vast majority of respondents are welcoming of the Greenway and look forward to being able to use it. An online workshop was also held on 18th December to help identify a suitable site for the Ferrybank car park and 20 residents attended. A number of options were discussed and feedback was received from participants on each. Further investigative work will now be undertaken by the Greenway Project Office and a follow-up online workshop will be held with residents before the end of January.
- **Construction:** the main construction of the 24km Greenway will be awarded in a number of Lots. The first Lots, namely for the construction of 5m wide macadam surfaces through the urban sections of New Ross (c 2.5km) and Ferrybank (c1.5 km) have been tendered and it is hoped these contracts will be awarded in February. Further contracts will be awarded in Q1 and Q2 2021 as the detailed design is finalised in each Lot.
- **Links to Slieverue and Glenmore:** tender recommendation has been made for consultancy services to identify the optimal access routes from the Greenway to the villages of Glenmore and Slieverue. Decision is awaited from KLP on LEADER Funding towards the costs of same.
- **Business Development Executive and Assistant Engineer:** job descriptions for these positions have been forwarded to the Dept for approval.

- Project Website: www.southeastgreenway.net.
- Resident Engineer: Eoin Atkinson is the Resident Engineer and he can be contacted at 087 188 4342 with any queries in connection with the Greenway.

Cllr. Frisby stated he was delighted with the progress made in relation to the car park location for Ferrybank and thanked all involved. He again stressed the importance of the links from the greenway to Slieverue and Glenmore and said that community groups in the Slieverue area have been coming together to look at opportunities and the Business Development Executive will be crucial in helping to develop these opportunities and breathe new life into the village. Cllr. Doherty supported Cllr. Frisby's comments and stated that local groups in the Glenmore area were also looking forward to discussing opportunities with the new Business Development Executive. All the members were agreed on the importance of links to Slieverue and Glenmore for the benefit of these communities.

Cllr. Breathnach complimented SMcK, Stan Cullen, Claire Goodwin, Connect the Dots and all involved in trying to establish a suitable location for the car Park in Ferrybank, a process which has been strengthened by the leaflet drop, survey and the online workshop. He asked what the rationale was for the division of the construction contract into lots. SMcK advised that full funding has been secured from Government for the Greenway, and as condition of the award, the urban sections must be delivered first and these have therefore been tendered first, further contracts and tenders will be awarded as the detailed design progresses.

Cllr. Breathnach also asked what the timeframe was for the appointment of the Business Development Executive. SMcK confirmed that approval was awaited from the Department before advertising the position, but was confident same will be received shortly.

Cllr. Dunphy asked if the preferred option for the car park at Ferrybank would be known before the next Piltown MD meeting. SMcK advised that in relation to the options initially identified for the car park, these had been screened in accordance with criteria in relation to planning, land owner agreement etc and were filtered down to four options. These four options were the subject of discussion and feedback at the online workshop and there is now a strong preference for one of these options, which will be explored further by the Project Office in advance of a follow up online workshop with residents regarding same to be held later this month. SMcK will update the members at the February meeting and said he was confident that an option suitable to all will be found and will take account of the long-term plans for development of the area.

Cllr. Doherty made a further appeal to retain a small number of sleepers so the public can see and appreciate what they were like. SMcK noted that the sleepers have been deemed environmental waste and cannot be reused, however he agreed to explore if a small number could be retained to for this purpose.

Cllr. Frisby asked if there was any update in relation to the link with the Rosslare to Waterford Greenway. SMcK confirmed that a preferred option has been identified and engagement has taken place with the landowners concerned. A Part 10 application is currently being prepared by Wexford County Council for submission to An Bord Pleanala and it is likely that this will include CPO Orders which will have to be prepared by KCC – advice is awaited from Wexford CoCo on how they propose to proceed.

(d) Update North Quays SDZ

SMcK circulated update report prior to the meeting and outlined as follows:-

- **Funding:** On 10th November last, the Govt confirmed the approval of €80.6m under the URDF towards the North Quays SDZ development, and a further €30 million from the National Transport Authority bringing the total funding package to €110.6m towards the project, making it currently the largest publicly funded urban regeneration project in the country. SMcK confirmed that this now gives full security in terms of funding, which includes funding for the four projects in Kilkenny.
- **Current status on infrastructural works**
 - a. Detailed design for the Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works are currently being finalised for issue in early 2021 and will form part of the Main Contract Works that are due to go to tender in April 2021.

- b. Detailed design drawings for tender documentation for relocation of the pump station are being finalised for issue in January 2021.
- c. It is planned to go to tender in February 2021 for Rock stabilisation works to the cliff face to the north of Plunkett Railway Station and also South Plaza enabling works.
- d. The preparation of a planning application for flood defence works is currently being progressed, to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála by April 2021.
- e. Detailed design for the Belmont Link road along with the Abbey Road and Belmont Road sustainable transport Improvements will progress in early 2021.
- **Tender processes and ongoing works**
 - a. **Main contract.** BDO Ireland is finalising a financial evaluation on the top 5 tenderers (as recommended by the Assessment Board) to be invited to stage 2 of the Restricted Tender.
 - b. **Advanced contracts/ enabling works.** The Utility Diversion Works Contract and Demolition and Site Clearance Works Contract are both substantially complete.
- **SDZ Development:** On 10th July 2020 Falcon Real Estate Development Ireland Ltd was granted planning permission by Waterford City and County Council for almost 130,000 sq m of development within the Waterford North Quays SDZ. Under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Waterford City and County Council at its meeting held on 10th December last agreed to dispose of lands at Michael Street and the North Quays to Falcon Real Estate.

SMcK advised that efforts were ongoing in trying to arrange a joint meeting with Waterford City and County Council, restrictions were making it difficult but a remote meeting may be possible. Discussion followed with contributions from all members. All welcomed progress to-date and noted the huge benefits that such funding will bring to Waterford, Kilkenny and the wider region and also noted the benefits that cooperation can bring.

MA confirmed he will revert to members regarding joint meeting with WCCC. **Action MA**

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Order or Resolution of the Municipal District Members for transaction at such meetings

None.

4. Notice of Motion

None.

5. Correspondence

None

6. AOB:

Cllr. Aylward

Meeting with TII – Cllr. Aylward confirmed that a meeting had been held with TII via MS Teams before Christmas, which was attended by himself, Cllrs. Matt Doran, Martin Brett and John Brennan, along with Tim Butler, Seamus Kavanagh and seven attendees from TII. He advised that time was limited, but items raised included the following:-

- Rathkieran junction and finding a solution to improve safety
- Old N25 into New Ross and putting a plan in place for maintenance of same going forward
- Dunkitt, to resolve flooding issues on the R448 resulting from construction of the M9

Cllr. Aylward hoped that such meetings will be held more regularly going forward, perhaps twice a year. All members agreed on the importance of such meetings with TII to raise and resolve matters and should be held once a year at a minimum.

Cllr. Doherty raised an issue concerning traffic, trucks in particular, driving in the hard shoulder as they exit the Luffany Roundabout heading towards New Ross, which is causing a hazard for those exiting properties along this stretch. SC agreed to raise the matter with the Road Design Section.

Action SC

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Cathaoirleach