



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Trim Municipal District***

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***2:00 p.m., 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Via Zoom***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Joe Fox**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Aisling Dempsey, Noel French, Trevor Golden, Ronan Moore and Niamh Souhan.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Des Foley

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Executive Engineer:** Maura Daly

**Assistant Engineer:** Donna Pringle

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan Moore**.

##### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

The minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan Moore** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.



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### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Environment**

- 4.1.1 To receive a presentation in respect of the publication of the draft River Basin Management 2022-2027 and the public consultation process for same including the making of submissions or observations.

Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer and Emmet Conboy, Executive Chemist, Environment Section attended the meeting and a presentation was delivered, which included the River Basin Management Plan, the condition of waters nationally and locally, the main themes of the plan, the main pressures and catchment response in Meath, overview of measures proposed, selected plan measures and how to make a submission and get involved locally.

Matters raised by councillors included:

Queried the council's role in river enhancement schemes – the river enhancement scheme, operated by the IFI and OPW, selects stretches of rivers for physical improvements. The proposal is to expand on successful projects, e.g. a more ambitious restoration programme on the River Boyne, which is at an early stage.

- Referred to the proposed regulations review that will result in the bathing water season being extended – the review may allow local authorities to be flexible and extend the monitoring beyond the core period of June to September. However, heavy rainfall will result in run-off from the land and overflows, reducing water quality, and bathing should be avoided following such events. An extension to the season will have resource implications for local authorities.



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- Queried whether councillors will be made aware of the results of the review of local authority resources – it is hoped that the review will result in increased resources and the results will be publicised. The draft plan is also subject to public consultation.

### **4.2 Planning**

- 4.2.1 To receive a presentation by Eithne O’ Brien of her Thesis completed as part of MSc City Planning & Design at Queens University Belfast, October 2021

‘The future viability of rural towns and villages in Ireland: Devising a village regeneration strategy for Ballivor County Meath’.

Pádraig Maguire, Senior Planner provided the background to and rationale of the project. Ethne O’Brien delivered a presentation, providing an overview of rural one-off housing in Meath and an outline of the case study of Ballivor, which included the village centre health check, public consultation, best practices in rural town and village regeneration, recommendations and public realm improvements, and key findings.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Acknowledged how the pandemic had resulted in an increased interest in village/rural living.
- The need for coordination and collaboration in accessing government funding.
- The potential for the approach in Ballivor to provide a template for other towns and villages.
- Queried the reasons why people choose to live outside towns and villages – this could relate to links with the land and the key is to provide an alternative to estate development, e.g. one-off homes closer to main streets.



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- Referred to the low numbers living in town and village centres and the need for property owners to utilise the schemes available, e.g. converting commercial units to residential units.
- Queried whether remote working hubs are sustainable post-COVID – these can be put to alternative uses, if required.
- The need to increase the understanding of employment issues in such locations to avoid commuting – further research is needed on such issues.
- Referred to the number of stakeholders involved and the need for the local authority to drive and coordinate such a project – in many other examples, communities were the main drivers of such initiatives, with local authorities providing the contact for information sharing.
- Queried the next steps – it is intended to liaise with the community to see what the appropriate solutions are and it is hoped to progress this next year.

### **4.3 Transportation**

- 4.3.1 To receive an update on works completed/ planned within Trim Municipal District.

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

### **5 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.



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### **7 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes**

- 7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.2 To note the Corporate Policy Group & Group Whip Meeting Minutes of 18th November 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Irish Rail in response to the notice of item 9.3.2 from the October meeting re car park charges.

The correspondence was noted.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Des Foley raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Welcomed the announcement of €100,000 Town Centre First funding for Enfield, which will enable a town centre plan to be developed.

- 9.2 Councillor Trevor Golden raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Queried whether a response had been received from the OPW regarding lighting up the Yellow Steeple – it was confirmed that no response had been received but that a reminder would issue.



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- 9.2.2 Referred to anti-social behaviour and vandalism taking place under the bridge on the far side of the river in the Porchfields and asked that this be reviewed.
- 9.2.3 Requested an update on plans to launch and promote the Boyne Blueway – it is hoped to developed the facility further and secure funding for facility upgrades.
- 9.3 Councillor Ronan Moore raised the following issues:
  - 9.3.1 Referred to the privately owned area to the rear of the supermarket in Longwood and queried what action could be taken to improve it, as it acts as an access point to the school.
  - 9.3.2 Queried whether the public lighting programme involves the replacement of lamp heads only or would also involve providing lights where gaps exist – the planned programme involves upgrades but locations where an urgent need exists will be considered.
  - 9.3.3 Referred to the ongoing lack of public toilet facilities in Trim and the impact of this on making Trim a destination town, attracting camper vans, etc. – this is a significant issue in Trim but there are no plans to provide new facilities. Other options will however be considered.

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**