

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
2nd December, 2020 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

1. Minutes of Ordinary Statutory Meeting held 4th November 2020

Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, seconded by Cllr. P. Dunphy and agreed.

Matters Arising

Cllr. Dunphy asked for update regarding Rathkieran Junction, SC advised that Road Design have referred this matter to TII, who are considering a scheme which would involve closure of one of the two junctions for Rathkieran off the N24, most likely the closest junction to Mooncoin village. This scheme would include improvements to the remaining junction and will be considered if a suitable design and agreement with landowner is forthcoming.

Cllr. Dunphy asked for an update in relation to Sinnotts Cross Monument. SMcK advised that the proposal to amend the criteria for Amenity Grants to include insurance costs was being discussed by the Environment SPC at their next meeting. The second proposal to provide insurance cover for Sinnotts Cross Monument under KCCs insurance policy will not be possible, as previously advised IPB will only insure assets owned by the Council. Cllr. Dunphy acknowledged the update and noted that the TIC process will have to be looked at again. Cllr. Aylward agreed.

Cllr. Doherty asked if there was any update on the N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme route selection. SC advised that he wasn't aware of any change to the timeframe in this regard, however Cllr. Frisby noted that there may be a delay until Q1 2021, as indicated by TII.

Cllr. Doherty asked for an update in relation to the Glenmore Bus Stop and Weighbridge. SC advised there is no update since the last meeting.

Cllr. Aylward asked about progress in relation to Poulanassy Waterfall. SC confirmed that 6 tenders were received, an assessment report has been submitted by the Consultant on these and letter of intent will issue shortly.

2. Minutes of Budgetary Meeting held 4th November 2020

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

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Update Monthly Roadworks

SC outlined details in relation to pavement and surface dressing works, discretionary maintenance and other works progressing in the area, as set out in his report circulated prior to the meeting. He also outlined details of the Priority 3 salting routes, as shown on the map circulated. In response to Cllr. Doherty, SC confirmed that the main focus of the priority 3 routes is in the vicinity of national schools to allow safer access to schools. It was noted that the priority 3 routes were only salted when extremely cold conditions were forecast.

Cllr. Breathnach suggested that the salting programme be looked at earlier in the year so same can be discussed and looked at locally. SC agreed that he would be in favour of this so there is scope and time to discuss fully well in advance.

Cllr. Doherty thanked SC and crew for the great work completed at Ballyfasy, which has made a huge improvement to safety and she also thanked the landowners concerned.

In answer to Cllr. Doherty's query on CIR Schemes, SC confirmed that they are normally taken in order of application, however due to the set budget allocation received it is not always possible to follow the list in order and some smaller schemes may be brought forward, while some larger schemes may be completed in phases over two years.

Cllr. Aylward took the opportunity to thank SC and staff for the great body of work completed in the Piltown Municipal District throughout the year, in spite of the difficulties posed by covid. He also noted the projects underway in the area and looked forward to more progress next year and completing the current 3-year roadworks programme. All the members joined in acknowledging the works completed during the year and the hard work of staff and crews in this regard. SC thanked members for their sentiments and acknowledged that the successful completion of the roadworks programme was a testament to each crew's commitment.

(b) Update South East Greenway

Update report was circulated to members prior to the meeting and SMcK advised as follows:-

- **Funding:** The project received a welcome boost in mid-November with the announcement that €15.5 million, the current estimated cost of the project, will be provided towards the construction costs under the national Greenway Fund in 2021 and 2022. The increase in the grant aid recognises the challenges faced by Local Authorities nationally during the Covid crisis in finding the matched funding for significant capital projects. The increased funding will allow the project to be delivered and open for use in 2022.
- **Rail and Sleeper Lifting Contract:** All of the rails and sleepers have now been lifted and moved to the old railway station site in Rosbercon, except for approximately 200 metres to the south of the Red Bridge. A final pass of the entire route to remove any remaining metalwork and sleeper remnants is due to take place in December
- **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:** 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. 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 households in the Ferrybank area in late November. The leaflet encourages householders to: (a) participate in a survey and (b) register for an online workshop to take place in mid-December.
- **Construction:** It has been decided to award the main construction of the 24km Greenway in a number of Lots. The first Lots, namely for the construction of 5m wide surfaces through the urban sections of New Ross (c 2.5km) and Ferrybank (c1.5 km) were tendered last week. It is hoped these contracts will be awarded before year end and that they will commence by end February 2021.
- **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:** the job description for the position has been forwarded to the Dept for approval. It is hoped to recruit the position in early 2021.
- **Project Website:** is now live 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.

With regard to the selection of a suitable site for the proposed Ferrybank car park, it was noted that participation in the survey was good, the closing date for which is 16th December. Weekly meetings were being held with Connect the Dots and a date for the online workshop will be confirmed once the survey is complete.

Cllr. Aylward asked about the status on car parks within the Wexford area – SMcK confirmed that the process was still underway, Rosbercon is complete and agreement with landowners is awaited for Mount Elliot, once this has been finalised both sites will proceed to Part 8.

Cllr. Frisby thanked SMcK and SC for their work in relation to developing links from the Greenway to Slieverue and Glenmore villages, which he said were of vital importance to these

villages and must be completed prior to the opening of the Greenway. SMcK confirmed that it is a priority of KCC to have these links in place for the economic benefit of both villages.

In relation to lifting of sleepers, Cllr. Doherty asked if any would be preserved as part of retaining the social history of the area. SMcK advised that it had been intended to reuse the sleepers, however following environmental assessment the sleepers were determined as environmental waste and cannot be reused, they must be disposed of. Regardless of this, SMcK confirmed that the history of the whole area can still be captured through both interpretive signage and the preservation of infrastructure as much as possible along the route. It was noted that an application for Leader funding has been made for support towards this.

Cllr. Breathnach asked that this be expanded to include a regional aspect, to include the history of the region. SMcK confirmed that this could be taken on board.

In response to Cllr. Doherty's query regarding the detailed design, SMcK confirmed that once the detailed design is finalised there will be an opportunity for members and the public to view same, perhaps by way of display at the Library community room.

Cllr. Doherty noted the approval of car parks at the Boatyard and Glenmore, SMcK confirmed that same have been approved and include mitigating measures which will hopefully address local concerns raised during the public consultation process.

SMcK confirmed to Cllr. Breathnach that approval was awaited from the Department on the job description for the Business Development Executive position and that recruitment would be arranged by HR in the normal way. It was noted that the position would be a 2-year contract and would assist in promoting business opportunities and help interested parties to avail of those opportunities.

Cllr. Breathnach enquired if the full extent of the Greenway would be opened at once or if urban and smarter travel areas would be open first. SMcK confirmed that the Greenway would most likely be opened in sections and this will depend on access points, but he said it is hoped the Greenway will be completed by summer of 2022.

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

None.

5. Notice of Motion

None.

6. Correspondence

MA confirmed that contact has been made with WCCC with regard to holding a joint meeting, it was felt that a face to face meeting may be more beneficial and he agreed to follow up the matter again with his counterpart in WCCC with a view to arranging a joint meeting in early 2021.

Action MA

7. AOB:

Cllr. Doherty

Ferrybank Park – Cllr. Doherty noted dumping and littering is still an issue in the Park, which is unacceptable and while staff have been assigned to litter pick, it is up to the public to take responsibility in this regard.

Boys School Ferrybank – Cllr. Doherty noted the proposed extension to the school or possibility of developing the land adjacent to the school and hoped that KCC will be able to provide any assistance that may be required during the process.

Cllr. Frisby

Ferrybank Shopping Centre – Cllr. Frisby asked if there had been any feedback, SMcK confirmed that no response had been received from either Dunnes Stores or NAMA in this regard.

Cllr. Aylward

Boundary Extension – Cllr. Aylward noted that this has again been raised by WCCC, he felt that there was a good system of cooperation in place at present and given the outcome of the last review, commencing this process again would be wasteful of time and funds. All the members joined in support of this view, all agreeing that cooperation is the only way forward and all that is required, the new Playground and Park being a prime example of cooperation.

SMcK – it was agreed at the October plenary Council meeting that a presentation would be given to each MD with regard to an update on Taking in Charge developments. This was agreed for the January meeting of the Piltown MD scheduled for Wednesday, 6th January.

MA agreed to explore the possibility of preparing an end of year report to outline the years achievements in Piltown MD, as suggested by Cllr. Doherty and supported by Cllr. Breathnach.
Action MA

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____