

**Minutes of April Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town and hosted remotely on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024 at 11.00am**

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**Members Present:** Councillor Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach  
Councillor Micheál Anglim  
Councillor Tony Black  
Councillor John Crosse  
Councillor Michael FitzGerald  
Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan  
Councillor Roger Kennedy  
Councillor Máirín McGrath  
Councillor Andy Moloney  
Councillor Marie Murphy  
Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)

**Officials Present:** Ms. Sharon Kennedy, District Director  
Mr. Anselm McGowan, Administrative Officer  
Mr. James Murray, Senior Roads Engineer  
Mr. Richard Power, Executive Engineer  
Mr. Tim Kilmartin, Executive Engineer  
Mr. Frank Cussen, Executive Engineer  
Mr. Michael Begley, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer  
**LAWPRO**  
Ms. Ruth Hennessy, Executive Scientific Officer  
Ms. Catherine Seale, Community Water Officer  
**Environment & Climate Change Directorate**  
Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Fiona Flynn, Staff Officer

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The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Declan Burgess, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the April meeting. Mr. Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, commenced the meeting with the meeting prayer. The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy on the passing of the District Engineer, James Swords' father in law Joe Barrett. This was unanimously agreed by the members.

**1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest**

There were no matters notified to the meetings administrator.

**2.1 Minutes of March Meeting of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The minutes of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District March meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 were adopted on the proposition of Councillor Marie Murphy seconded by Councillor John Crosse.

### **Matters arising from the minutes**

Councillor Roger Kennedy referred to concerns raised at the March MD meeting regarding the height of the cushion ramps at the new housing estate on Boherclough Street. In particular he is aware of two vehicles adapted to carry wheelchair users in Cashel and the vehicles cannot physically go over the ramps. Mr. Richard Power, Executive Engineer confirmed that the housing section are liaising with the designer to confirm the spec is correct.

### **3.1 Environment & Climate Action Directorate**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer and Ms. Fiona Flynn, Staff Officer, Environment & Climate Change Section to the meeting. Mr. Holland thanked the members and confirmed that the Climate Action Plan has been adopted and the closing date for Community Climate Action Fund applications was the 27<sup>th</sup> February. The applications received are currently being assessed. He also wanted to make a correction to the report circulated that the Historic Landfill in Knocklofty is within the Clonmel area not this Municipal District.

Councillor Ryan (Shiner) referred to St John Famine Graveyard which wasn't part of the Tipperary Hills upgrade work and the footpaths need restoration. The committee is older and needs support establishing ownership in order that they can avail of grant funding and they also need support to manage any large scale project. She also asked why some derelict sites have valuations and others don't. She also commented that she has received a lot of complaints from people regarding responsible dog ownership and dogs are not kept on a lead and there should be signage in parks. Councillor Michael FitzGerarld acknowledged the progress in relation to Solohead Graveyard and again highlighted the importance of being buried in your own place. Councillor Murphy referred to the 8 court cases in relation to waste enforcement and asked if they could be highlighted in the media because this would act as a deterrent to others. She also requested an update in relation to the cases listed for Clonmel Circuit Court on the 18<sup>th</sup> April and requested further details on the Annual Maintenance Subsidy. Councillor McGrath asked how many applications under the Community Action Fund were received from this District. Councillor Crosse supported Councillor FitzGerarld in relation to Solohead Graveyard and Councillor Ryan (Shiner) in relation to St John Famine Cemetery. Councillor Hanna Hourigan also wanted to support Councillor Ryan (Shiner) and also asked if the surface of the dog run on the Hills could be looked at because it's very rough. Councillor Kennedy thanked the Environment Team for their involvement in the launch of the Tipperary Town Community Energy Plan and requested an update on the lands at Deansgrove. Councillor Black requested that the Council would take ownership of St Johns Cemetery. Councillor Burgess requested that the Environment Team would use covert CCTV

cameras to prevent fly tipping and also asked if action could be taken in relation to the oversized headstones in St Cormac's Cemetery.

In response Mr. Holland advised that Graveyards fall into various categories. In the 1880s, when the Church of Ireland was disestablished, there was a group called the Church Temporalities Commission of Ireland set up to try and decide what would be done with all the medieval graveyards and they were handed over to the Board of Guardians in the Poor Law Districts. There are over 130 of those in Tipperary but St John's is not one of those as it dates to about 1850. The second category of graveyards are those controlled by the Roman Catholic Church and these are generally contained within the grounds of church properties. It was his understanding that the site had been developed as a Workhouse Burial Ground. There were nine workhouses in Tipperary and all had a burial ground attached, some within the confines of the old workhouse buildings, but others were located some distance away from the workhouse. Therefore, St John's Famine Graveyard either belongs to the local authority by default or it belongs to the successor of the workhouse. Up to the time of the establishment of the Health Boards in 1970, the County Council had responsibility for the health services and the legal question would be who owns the workhouse. Mr. Holland offered to meet with the committee.

Mr. Holland acknowledged that progress is being made in Solohead and it has been difficult to find a suitable site due to the high water table. Mr. Holland referred the issues with the dog run on the Tipperary Hills to the District and Mr. Frank Cussen confirmed that it is a compacted gravel surface and he agreed to investigate the issue. Mr. Holland confirmed that when a valuation is received on a derelict site the levy is applied, however sometimes there are difficulties establishing ownership. The Council will now be taking a multi departmental approach when dealing with derelict sites. The Council wants to highlight that prosecutions are happening however they are dependent on the media working with the Council. In relation to responsible dog ownership he confirmed that post Covid there has been a significant increase in dog ownership and the Council has both an education and enforcement role. In relation to the ownership of Deansgrove he advised the Members that it is a historic piece of land and the Council was liaising with the owner, however following his death, the Council is now dealing with his next of kin's legal team. Mr. Holland also advised that there are byelaws in place for St Cormac's Cemetery and any non-compliant headstones will be enforced.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Holland and Ms. Flynn and their team.

### **3.2 Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO)**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Ruth Hennessy and Ms. Catherine Seale, LAWPRO to the meeting. Ms. Hennessy thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Members and made a presentation on the role of LAWPRO and that it is a shared service between Tipperary and Kilkenny County Council. She advised that LAWPRO's role is to study the data from testing which is carried out by the EPA,

Inland Fisheries, National Parks & Wildlife etc, identify issues and raise awareness. She confirmed that Catherine Seale has been employed to work with community groups on awareness and encouraging groups to apply for funding. Ms. Hennessy also advised that LAWPRO had secured €50 million funding from the Department of Agriculture to provide support to farmers to limit the impact agriculture is having on water quality. Ms. Seale advised that more could be done in Tipperary to avail of funding. She referred to Heritage Week funding, Biodiversity funding, LEADER funding and confirmed that LAWPRO funding could be used as match funding. She also advised the Members that a group of state agencies including the EPA, Inland Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and the Environment Section meet quarterly to discuss issues. The launch of the Farming for Water EIP Fund of €60m was launched in Mullingar last month and they are currently engaging with farmers and the Scheme will operate until 2027.

Councillor Ryan (Shiner) asked if there was an overlap with the Environment Section in relation to the raw sewerage going into the river in Aherlow. Councillor McGrath thanked the team for meeting them in Newcastle to discuss the treatment plant. Councillor Murphy referred to the high quality of the River Tar and Glengarra and perhaps there are learnings from this. She also asked if community groups could avail of the Farming for Water funding or do you need a herd number. Councillor Burgess asked who has the authority to request land owners to cut back vegetation.

In response Ms. Hennessy advised that LAWPROs role is to support local authorities to understand water quality and they don't get involved in day to day activities. They have scientists working on particular rivers, they provide evidence, help gather evidence and support enforcement action. She referred to the EPA website [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie) which lists the data collected and they take learnings from this. They look at water deterioration in an area and work with Teagasc and Dairygold advisors. Regarding cutting back vegetation the Inland Fisheries caution against cutting back too much. She also advised that there are other funding streams available for community groups and Ms. Sheevaun Thompson was the LAWPRO funding lead.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Hennessy and Ms. Seale and the LAWPRO team.

### **3.3 Consider Additional Tidy Towns and Burial Grounds Grant Allocations 2024.**

On the proposition of Councillor Michael FitzGerarld, seconded by Councillor John Crosse, the additional Tidy Towns Grant Scheme 2024 allocations were agreed as follows:

| <b>TIDY TOWNS &amp; RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GRANTS 2024</b> |                                   |                        |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>NO.</b>  | <b>NAME</b>                       | <b>ALLOCATION 2024</b> |
| 1   | Rocksprings Residents Association | €500.00                |
|   | <b>Total</b>                      | <b>€500.00</b>         |

On the proposition of Councillor Roger Kennedy, seconded by Councillor AnneMarie Ryan (Shiner), the additional Burial Ground Grant Allocations 2024 were agreed as follows:

| <b>BURIAL GROUND GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2024</b> |                           |                        |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>NO.</b>                                  | <b>NAME</b>               | <b>ALLOCATION 2024</b> |
| 1   | Mount Bruis Burial Ground | €735.00                |
|   | <b>Total</b>              | <b>€735.00</b>         |

### **3.3 District Administrator's Report**

Mr. Michael Begley, Tipperary Revitalisation, Mr. Frank Cussen, Project Engineer and Ms. Adeline Walsh, Staff Officer made a presentation to the Members outlining what had been achieved in the Municipal District with their support and cooperation over the last 5 years.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the District for the presentation and it is great to see how we are accessing funding to transform areas and he noted that it is particularly helpful for the Members who are canvassing on the doors to demonstrate the level of investment. Councillor Kennedy noted that it is a testament to what has been achieved in 5 years and that there was a plan of action from 2019 and a huge amount has been done to get projects shovel ready. Thanks to the Director, the Administrative and Engineering teams who bring the projects from beginning to end. He referred to Cashel who lost the Bolton Library and an announcement was made by An Bord Fáilte that an Interpretive Centre could house the display. He noted that the Rock of Cashel have applied for World Heritage Status and the site at the old convent grounds which would be suitable for a town park. Councillor Murphy thanked the staff for the presentation and acknowledged the huge work being done in the District. Everywhere has benefited and a lot of big projects have also been delivered by other agencies and community groups like the Community School in Cahir and the extension to St Theresa's Hospital in Clogheen. She also wanted to thank Mr. Anthony Coleman and the previous District Directors. Councillor McGrath acknowledged that it was great to look back and she wanted to thank community groups. She also wanted to commend the District officials on the quality of the applications being submitted to the Department. Councillor Ryan (Shiner), Councillor Hanna Hourigan, Councillor Crosse, Councillor Anglim also thanked the team for the presentation. Councillor Moloney acknowledged the vision of the Municipal District and how it is now being borne out.

### **3.4 District Engineer's Report**

The District Engineers report was circulated with the agenda and it was noted by the Members.

### **4.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders**

The orders were noted.

### **5.1 Councillor Annemarie Ryan (Ref. ID 2805)**

That this Municipal District carry out works on the walkway from Bansha Village (on the Cahir side) as far as Barnlough (Bolands) Cross. Works were recently carried out to improve the verges but the walkway itself is in a state of disrepair, muddy and subject to flooding.

#### **Reply**

This project will be considered for future funding application as suitable funding streams become available. The lighting standards in situ as currently configured are incompatible with supply. Any further lighting requirements will be included in the project scope.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Kennedy.

### **5.2 Councillor Mairin McGrath (Ref ID 2806)**

That this Municipal District would erect public lighting along a section of footpath on the Clogheen Road into Ballyporeen.

#### **Reply**

This section of footpath will be assessed and considered for inclusion in future footpath replacement works.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Marie Murphy.

### **6.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

A vote of sympathy was extended on the death of the following:

- Pake Joe Ryan, Mohera, Annacarty
- Joe Moloney Barronstown, Tipperary Town

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Cashel Town FC on winning the Division One League Title
- Eamonn and Majella Hall, Friar Street, Cashel who recently retired from Hall's Shop a family business of 73 years
- David Moloney, Cashel who won the Golden Masters A Handball title
- Cashel Rugby Club whilst unlucky on Saturday against MU Barnhall, congratulations to the team on a very successful season
- Tipperary Camogie Team who won the League Final in Croke park against Galway
- Kilfeacle Rugby Club who won the Munster Junior Cup Semi Final and best of luck in the final on Sunday against UCC RFC
- The Two Johnnies who will receive The Tipperary Association Dublin TippMan Person on the Year 2023 on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel
- St Michaels FC on winning the Munster Junior Cup Final

- Young at Hearts Clonoulty who are a successful Active Retirement Group in Clonoulty

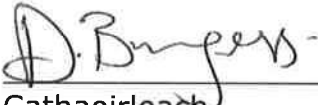
**7.1 Correspondence from National Transport Authority**

Noted

**8.1 Any other Business**

There was no other business.

**This concluded the business of the Municipal District meeting.**

Signed/  Dated/ 27/5/2024  
Cathaoirleach

Signed/  Dated/ 27/5/2024  
District Administrator

