Present: Councillor Richie Molloy, Mayor

> Councillor Michael Murphy Councillor Siobhán Ambrose Councillor Pat English Councillor John Fitzgerald Councillor Niall P. Dennehy

In Attendance: Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services

Ms. Liz McGrath, A/ District Administrator

Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer Ms. Mary Irwin, A/Staff Officer

Also in Attendance: Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer, Environment & Climate Action

Ms. Orla Kelly, A.O., Environment & Climate Action Ms. Catherine Seale-Duggan, CWO, LAWPRO

Mr. Brian Casey, Environmental Technician, Water Services Mr. Michael Scully, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Roads

Ms. Iga Skowronska, Clerical Officer, Clonmel Borough District

Ms. Myriam Madigan, Member of the Public

The Mayor opened the meeting by expressing a vote of sympathy to:

Councillor John Fitzgerald and family on the passing of his Mother, Mrs. Jane Fitzgerald,

The family of the late Ger Ambrose and The family of the late Bishop William Lee.

A minute silence was observed in their memory.

Item 1.1 Zoom Protocol

There was nobody in attendance by Zoom.

Item 2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Ms. Liz McGrath, A/District Administrator confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

Item 3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 13th December, 2023.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 13th December, 2023, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Pat English, seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose and agreed by all.

Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising.

Councillor Dennehy referenced his notice of motion which was brought to the December Meeting regarding live broadcasting of all Borough District Meetings and Workshops for 2024. The Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that a reply had previously issued to him in relation to this matter.

Item 4.1 Attendance of Representative From Directorate Environment and Climate Action

The Report as circulated with the Agenda was taken as read. Mr. Denis Holland informed the Meeting that a workshop will be held for the Members on the Local Authority Draft Climate Action Plan on the 1st February, 2024 at 2.30pm by Zoom. Members will be requested to adopt the Draft LACAP at the February plenary meeting.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the revised septic tank improvement grant scheme and the increase to €12,000 from the 1st January, 2024. She asked if there was a proposal to carry out a media campaign to highlight this increase, asked about the cost to upgrade a septic tank system and if a survey had been carried out to see how many are not fully compliant.
- In relation to the Dog Neuter Vouchers, Councillor Ambrose asked if these vouchers cover the full cost or if they are partial vouchers.
- Councillor Ambrose complimented and thanked the staff working at the Carrigeen Recycling Centre and highlighted the success of the mattress amnesty which took place.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the fact that the Section had committed to continue funding the Picker Pals programme into the 2024 academic year and asked how many schools in Clonmel were involved in the programme.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the work carried out on the Climate Action Plan.
- Members expressed their delight with Clonmel being ranked no. 6 out of 40 towns/cities in the Irish Business Against Litter Survey and thanked the outdoor staff along with Clonmel Tidy Towns for their work in achieving this result.
- Councillor English asked for an update on funding for works at St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Councillor English welcomed the rollout of the Community Climate Action Plan.
- Councillor English welcomed the progress to date on the Derelict Sites in Clonmel.
- In relation to the Household Waste Surveys which were carried out, Councillor English requested an update on the action taken against the households which were found to be non-compliant.
- Councillor English welcomed the increase in the Septic Tank Grants and requested an update on the restrictions applied to them.
- Councillor Murphy raised the issue regarding the condition of the pathways in the Cemetery in Rosegreen and asked if there is a capital budget to repair them and make safe over time.
- Councillor Molloy concurred with the members in expressing his congratulations to the outdoor staff and Tidy Towns Committee in relation to the success of Clonmel in the recent Irish Business Against Litter Survey and also asked for clarification on the dog neutering vouchers.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

Denis Holland thanked the members for their positive support.

• In relation to the query raised regarding the septic tank grants, Denis Holland informed the members that restrictions will apply to the grant as this is part of a National Inspection Plan dictated by the E.P.A. Mr. Holland stated that there will be a local and national publicity campaign highlighting the revised Scheme. Regarding the cost of installing a septic tank system, Mr. Holland estimated the cost at €15,000 to €20,000

stating that the cost is dependent on soil conditions. Grants will only be processed where an inspection has taken place.

- In relation to the query raised regarding funding for the works at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Mr. Holland confirmed to the members that capital funding is available for these works.
- Regarding the query raised in relation to the condition of the footpaths at Rosegreen Cemetery, Mr. Holland informed the meeting that he will liaise with the Borough District to see where works can be progressed on a phased basis and revert to Councillor Murphy.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the household waste surveys, Orla Kelly informed the members that where households do not dispose of waste in the correct manner they are liable to prosecution.
- Ms. Kelly informed the members that there are a limited number of dog neutering vouchers available to Tipperary County Council and these are distributed free where, after consultation with the Dog Wardens, hardship cases have been identified.
- Ms. Kelly informed the meeting that there are 4 classrooms in Tipperary taking part in the Picker Pals Programme and stated that she would revert to Councillor Ambrose to let her know if any of these schools were in Clonmel.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Holland and Ms. Kelly for their attendance at the Meeting.

Item 4.2 Attendance of Representative From Directorate LAWPRO

The Report as circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

Catherine Seale-Duggan introduced herself to the members, as she is newly appointed to the position and outlined her role supporting public participation and working with community groups.

Questions raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English expressed his disappointment that the water quality in Tipperary had deteriorated so significantly over the years and asked what the pressures are on the water supply and how these issues can be rectified.
- Councillor Dennehy commented on the deterioration of the supply in the last 12 years noting that during this time Irish Water was established.
- Councillor Ambrose asked how much of the €50 million allocated up to 2027 in national grants will be made available to Tipperary.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update regarding the level of engagement with the farming community and enquired what types of funding will be made available to farmers.
- Councillor Ambrose asked who is responsible for issuing enforcement proceedings in relation to water pollution.
- Councillor Fitzgerald stated that Tipperary is renowned for its agricultural and dairy industry and asked what engagement and clear guidelines can farmers expect to improve water quality.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- Brian Casey informed the meeting that the Agricultural Industry was putting the largest pressure on water pollution.
- Mr. Casey informed the members that the Environment Section has a role in relation to water quality and that LAWPRO is not an enforcement agency with their role being to

engage and look at specific targeted areas which have been identified. Mr. Casey stated that there are a range of different Agencies involved in enforcement proceedings in relation to water pollution e.g. Environment, Inland Fisheries etc.

- Mr. Casey informed the members that a decision hasn't been made in relation to the funding Tipperary will receive on the National Grants.
- Mr. Casey stated that the EIP (European Innovation Partnership Fund) will fund measures and advise farmers on how to reduce losses of nutrients, sediment and pesticides to water from agricultural land.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Casey and Ms. Seale-Duggan for their attendance at the meeting.

Item 5.1 Update on Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme by Michael Scully

Michael Scully updated the members in relation to the flood alleviation scheme at Marlfield Lake. Mr. Scully stated that surveying works and modelling have been completed on the lake and an options development report has been produced by the Consultants which was presented for public consultation in 2023. Two preferred options were picked and Tipperary County Council met with senior members of the OPW to review these options. Michael outlined the options to the Members and stated that a further public consultation meeting will be held in the Talbot Hotel in March. Michael also informed the members that a flood management plan has been drafted and finalised for Marlfield Village. It is hoped to have contactors on site towards the end of 2024 to commence works on the sluice valve at the lake and to undertake ground investigation works.

Questions raised by the Members were as follows:

- Members thanked Michael for his report stating that it was all very encouraging.
- Members raised queries regarding the timeframes involved after public consultation, whether funding was guaranteed once design picked and the timeframe for the works.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- Michael stated that it is a very complex and unique scheme which makes it hard to put a timeline on construction and design. It may be 2026 at the earliest before the planning process is completed after which time a specialist contractor will have to be sought to carry out the works.
- In relation to funding, Michael informed the members that the funding is not ringfenced but that the OPW have confirmed funding for the Project.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Scully for his attendance at the Meeting.

Item 6.1 Report of District Administrator

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

Questions raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the signage at the Sports Hub.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked Adam Coffey, Executive Engineer for his work on the installation of the new playground equipment at Mulcahy Park.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the works which are due to commence on the Blueway in March/April.

- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the installation of signage and seating in Marlfield which are due to commence shortly.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the imminent appointment of the Contractor to commence works on the Performance Space at the Abbey Street Car Park.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was any further update on the Market Place development.
- In relation to the demolition of the Clonmel Arms Hotel, Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update in relation to the development of the site.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the removal of the old telephone kiosks around the town.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the URDF funding application.
- Councillor English requested an update on the funding for the cluster housing in Kilsheelan.
- Councillor English asked if a reply had been received from the Chief Superintendent in relation to the reduction of the garda numbers in Clonmel and, if not, requested that a further letter be sent.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to the erection of the gates at the Sports Hub which will enhance security at the site.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the funding for the works to be carried out at Suir Island Bridge.
- Councillor English requested an update on the Tree Strategy.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update in relation to progress at the Market Place Site.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the Suir Island Amenity Park.
- Councillor Murphy highlighted the outdoor gym equipment installed for elderly residents in Kilsheelan and asked if this initiative could be looked at for Mulcahy Park.
- Councillor Murphy raised the issue of litter accumulating at the Railway Station and asked that Irish Rail be contacted in relation to same and requested that the 2 litter bins which were removed by Irish Rail be reinstated.
- Councillor Molloy concurred with Councillor Murphy in relation to the accumulation of litter at the Railway Station and also raised the issue regarding the lack of public toilets at the location.
- Councillor Fitzgerald raised the issue regarding litter and weeds on the footpaths at Mulcahy Park and asked if this could be looked at.
- Councillor Dennehy referenced his Notice of Motion which he had brought before the October, 2021 Meeting. He wanted a plebiscite to be put before the people regarding their support or lack thereof in relation to the Local Government (Reform) Act, 2014 which abolished Clonmel Borough Council and South Tipperary County Council and requested details on the preparations in place to present to the people on the 8th March, 2024.
- Councillor Dennehy queried the demolition of the Clonmel Arms Hotel and the building at the corner of O'Neill Street asking if these demolitions were subject to Planning.
- All members spoke in support of the development of the Clonmel Arms Hotel stating their full support of the developers.
- Members welcomed the roll out and success of the town bus service and asked if it will be extended to areas surrounding Clonmel.
- Councillor Murphy asked that the members be provided with contact details for the N.T.A. in order to provide feedback on the service.

- In relation to the Railway Station, members asked if there was any further update on the upgrading of the timetable for Clonmel.
- In relation to the installation of the CCTV, members acknowledged the work carried out at council level and requested that a letter be written to the Garda Commissioner requesting a timeframe for the installation of same and to highlight the urgency attached to this.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to signage and security issues at the Sports Hub, Liz McGrath, A/District Administrator informed the members that she will follow up on same.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the CCTV installation, the Manager informed the members that she will forward a letter to the Garda Commissioner.
- The A/District Administrator stated that she will follow up on the issues raised in relation to the litter and updated timetable at the railway station with Iarnród Eireann. The District Manager informed the members that she will liaise with the Environment Section and contact Irish Rail with a view to finding a solution at the station on the litter issue.
- In relation to works on the performance space at Abbey Street Car Park, the A/District Administrator informed the meeting that the tenders are being evaluated at the moment.
- The A/District Administrator stated that she will follow up and progress the removal of the old telephone kiosks.
- That A/District Administrator informed the members that she will follow up with the Chief Superintendent for a reply regarding the reduction of the garda numbers in Clonmel.
- In relation to the Suir Island Amenity Park/Bridge Ms. McGrath informed the members that the planning application is with An Bord Pleanala and a decision is due by the 2nd May, 2024.
- Ms. McGrath informed the meeting that work is ongoing on the progression of the Tree Strategy.
- The A/District Administrator informed the members that she will revert to them with contact details for the NTA.
- In relation to Suir Island Gardens, the A/District Administrator informed the members that tenders are currently being assessed.
- The A/District Administrator informed the meeting that the suggestion raised regarding the outdoor gym equipment at Mulcahy Park can be examined and a reply will issue to Councillor Murphy.
- In relation to the query raised in relation to the litter and weeds in Mulcahy Park, the District Engineer stated that she will follow up on same.
- The District Manager informed the meeting that she along with Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive had met with the owners of the Market Place Site and that she will revert with an update in mid-February.
- In relation to the URDF Funding Application, Liz McGrath informed the members that there was no update on same.
- In relation to the query raised on the Cluster Houses in Kilsheelan, the District Manager informed the meeting that the Planning Directorate will engage with and update the members on funding.

- In relation to the query raised by Councillor Dennehy in relation to his previous notice of motion, the District Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that she will revert to him on this.
- The District Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that she will ask the Planning Section to reply to him regarding his query on development at O'Neill Street.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the development of the Clonmel Arms Hotel, the District Manager informed the meeting that a dangerous structure notice was issued to the owners which resulted in the demolition of the building. The District Manager stated that she will circulate an update on same to Councillor Dennehy

Item 6.2 Report of District Engineer – Roads Programme

The District Engineer's report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English requested an update on the gates at Sheehy Terrace/O'Neill Street.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the play equipment at Denis Burke Park and Elm Park.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the works on the chapel at Kickham Plaza.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the street lights in Lisronagh at the bottle bank.
- Councillor English asked for an update regarding the projects being progressed under Active Travel.
- Councillor English asked if the footpath is being progressed from Raheen House to the old Technical School under the IPB Footpath funding.
- Members asked for an update on the installation of speed ramps at Honeyview Estate, Ard Fatima, Ardgaoithe Drive, Heywood Drive. They also asked if signage could be erected in housing estates to reduce speed and to make drivers aware of children in the area.
- Councillor Ambrose highlighted the letters that had issued regarding the improvement works on the N24 and encouraged members of the public to attend the public meetings being organised.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update in relation to the bend at Rathronan and the Ballybeg Junction.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the timeframe for works on the entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to gully cleaning around the town.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked Gillian Flynn, A/Senior Executive Engineer for her role in providing the new footpath at Rosegreen National School.
- Councillor Ambrose raised concerns regarding safety issues around the Gaelscoil and Loretto schools.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update regarding resurfacing works in Kilcash Village..
- Councillor Murphy asked when the speed limit review process will commence and what the role of the members will be.
- Councillor Murphy raised issues regarding speed at the Powerstown National School and asked if a review needs to be undertaken or if the members can amend the speed limit
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the preferred route for the N24.

- Councillor Murphy raised the issue of the lack of a controlled pedestrian crossing between Moangarriff and Poppyfields along the Clonmel By-Pass and stated that a flyover pedestrian crossing should be given consideration.
- Councillor Murphy asked if minor public realm works could be carried out in the prime retail area of town e.g replacement/painting of existing litter bins, erection/painting of signposts and a schedule of minor realm works for 2024 be prepared.
- Councillor Molloy asked if a belly bin could be installed in Upper Irishtown to target litter in the area.
- Councillor Molloy welcomed the news regarding the meeting held recently with the District Manager, Chief Executive and the owners of Market Place. He also complimented Maureen Purcell and S.T.A.G. for the painting works carried out by them to improve the exterior of the buildings.
- Councillor Molloy asked if consideration could be given to power washing the pedestrian area through Market Place.
- Councillor Molloy highlighted the recent issues with water outages in the northern end of town and stated that there needs to be better communication between the members and Irish Water.

Queries raised by the Members which Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer responded to were as follows:

- In relation to the gates at Sheehy Terrace/O'Neill Street, the District Engineer informed the meeting that a contractor has been appointed and the works should be completed in February.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that the design works have been completed in relation to the additional works at the Chapel at Kickham Plaza and stated that she will check with the Arts Officer regarding funding and revert back.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the lights at Lisronagh, the District Engineer informed the meeting that she will follow up on same.
- In relation to the query raised on the installation of speed ramps, James Murray informed the meeting that under Active Travel a new suite of measures to create low speed areas is being implemented to include raised pedestrian crossing points which has been brought to the Roads Strategic Policy Committee. Mr. Murray agreed to look and review areas where the installation of speed ramps has been agreed during the coming year.
- Mr. Murray informed the members that a review meeting was held with the Department of Transport on the 18th December, 2023 to discuss timelines for the next speed limit review.
- In relation to the Active Travel Scheme, the District Engineer informed the meeting that there is no official information on the projects that will be going ahead and that we are still awaiting information on the portion of works that will hopefully go ahead at the Gaelscoil and Cashel Road.
- In relation to the query raised on works under IPB Funding, the District Engineer informed the meeting that there was a reduction in the IPB funding this year and is currently awaiting budget details.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that Rathronan has been submitted for inclusion in the 2024 Minor Safety Improvement Scheme.
- In relation to the works at Ballybeg Junction, the District Engineer said that she will follow up on same.

- In relation to the works at the entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery, the District Engineer stated that a design has been prepared and tender documents will now be prepared.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that gullies will continue to be monitored and cleaned where necessary.
- In relation to resurfacing works at Kilcash, the District Engineer informed the meeting that resurfacing will commence once works in the village have been completed by Irish Water.
- The District Engineer informed the members that she will follow up on the minor public realm works in the prime retail areas of town.
- In relation to the request to install a belly bin in Upper Irishtown, the District Engineer stated that bin usage is currently being reviewed and this location will be looked at as part of this review.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that she will look at the possibility of power washing Market Place.
- In relation to the pedestrian crossing on the N24, the District Engineer referred to the presentation to be given by the Consultants on Friday, 19th January, 2024 stating that a briefing will be held with the members before the presentation.

Item 6.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme

The Report was noted by the Members.

<u>Item 7.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 12th January, 2024.</u> These were noted by the Members.

Items 8.1 to 8.6—Notice of Motion

Before the Notices of Motion were discussed, Councillor Niall Dennehy raised the issue regarding a Notice of Motion he had submitted for the meeting which related to the appointment of the Chief Executive but which was not recorded on the Notice of Motion Register for circulation with the Agenda.

The District Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that his motion was not recorded as it was deemed not to meet the requisite criteria and this had been explained to him prior to the meeting. The District Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that the elected members of Clonmel Borough District Council or members of the public do not have a direct role in the selection process for the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. This appointment is carried out through the Public Appointment Services with the selected candidate being ratified (or otherwise) by the Plenary Council. All Clonmel Borough District Members are members of the Plenary and can therefore ratify the appointment or object to the appointment of the Chief Executive as they see fit when it is put before them at the Plenary Council session. Councillor Dennehy noted the reply.

Motion 2737 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

That the footpaths within the Ashcourt Housing Estate in Clerihan are given urgent attention having regard to their dangerous condition. Many of the footpaths are showing significant damage as a result of trees planted when the estate was built, in may instances there are dangerous breaks causing ridges which are a trip hazard. Furthermore, where trees have been removed, holes or gaps remain.

REPLY:

Repairs to a portion of footpaths in Ash court will be carried out as part of IPB funding in 2024.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2743 was proposed by Cllrs. John Fitzgerald/Michael Murphy

That the Borough Council as a matter of urgency install a "Smart Bin" in Rosegreen Village in accordance with previous discussions at the Borough Council.

REPLY:- A meeting with the Tidy Towns Committee has been proposed to discuss this issue. A date for this meeting has yet to be confirmed.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2744 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

Following on from previous works along the L7205-2, that the remaining sections are considered for resurfacing under the 2024 Area Roadworks Programme having regard to it's poor condition as you head back towards Clerihan

REPLY:-

This road will be considered for this year's road works programme subject to the availability of a budget for the works and prioritisation based on its condition rating.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2746 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

Following a recent onsite meeting with residents in Highfield Grove that his Council looks at improving the sightlines for motorists exiting this estate by upgrading this junction.

REPLY:

The sightlines can be improved by the prevention of parking on the junction and the removal of the hedge on the corner property to the low wall level. With these measures, the sightlines would be adequate and in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

Councillor Ambrose to talk further with the District Engineer on this.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2747 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

That following representations from the Kilsheelan/ Kilcash Parish Council that this Council looks at both upgrading the public lights around the bus stop opposite the Ormonde Stores and in tandem looks at the provision of a footpath from this bus stop down Chapel road and into the village

REPLY:

Public lighting and footpaths are generally only provided within the speed limits in towns and villages. This location is outside the speed limits of Kilsheelan Village and therefore we will not be in a position to provide such infrastructure at this location.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2748 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose

Following representations from residents in Fairfield's that this Council looks at the provision of additional car parking spaces within the estate in 2024

REPLY:

Having reviewed the parking in Fairfields, I am satisfied there is adequate parking in this estate. Each house in Fairfields has at least one off street parking space and 16 houses in the estate have two off street spaces available. In addition, there are 31 spaces located in dedicated parking bays, 6 of which were provided in 2023. There is further on street parking also available. The ratio of amenity area in Farifields is now down to 17% of the estate. Therefore, I do not propose to provide any further parking spaces in Fairfields.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 9.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to be noted.

District Administrator

Item 10.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Votes of sympathy were expressed by the Members at the beginning of the Meeting.