

**Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the
Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on
Monday, 10th November, 2014 at 3:45 p.m.**

Present:

Councillors J. Breen, J. Flynn, P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.
- Mr. Michael McNamara, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Siobhan Garvey, Staff Officer.
- Mr. Ger Dollard, Director of Service.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Mr. Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Mr. Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. Eddie Power, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr. Gordon Daly, Senior Planner.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Crowe presided.

At the outset Cllr. C. Crowe proposed that a minute's silence take place in remembrance of all Clare people who have lost their lives in armed conflicts and in particular the 700 Clare men who died on the battlefields of World War One. This proposal was agreed by all present and was observed.

Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. B. Chambers
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. O'Callaghan agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the October Meeting of Clare County Council held on 13th October, 2014 be adopted and signed.”

b. Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the adjourned October Meeting of Clare County Council held on 20th October, 2014 be adopted and signed.”

Item 2: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 10th September, 2014 be noted.”

b. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Murphy
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Budget Meeting held on the 7th October, 2014 be noted.”

c. Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 7th October, 2014 be noted.”

Item 3: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

The members noted the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd October, 2014 as presented.

Item 4: Disposal of property pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000. Proposed disposal of property at Chapel Lane, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Report dated 13th October, 2014 from Catherine O’Hara, Administrative Officer, Ennis Municipal District was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of property located at 4 Chapel Lane, Ennis. This property was acquired by Ennis Town Council under a friendly C.P.O. in order to rectify title to the property. The property measuring 0.004 hectares has never been used by the Council.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Breen agus glacadh leis

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning &

Development Act, 2000 as amended, of the disposal of property measuring 0.004 hectares at 4 Chapel Lane, Ennis, Co. Clare to subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 13th October, 2014.”

Item 5: Disposal of property pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000. Proposed disposal of property at No. 33 Clancy Park, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Report dated 15th October, 2014 from Mairead Corbett, Administrative Officer, Housing Directorate was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that this property was purchased by Clare County Council in 1992. The Council are now disposing of its interest in the property.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Breen
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, of the disposal of a house under the Affordable Housing Scheme at No. 33 Clancy Park, Ennis, Co. Clare and subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 15th October, 2014.”

Item 6: Disposal of property pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000. Proposed disposal of property at Cois na hAbhna, Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Report dated 28th October, 2014 from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that Ennis Educate Together have leased lands from the Council at the above location for the past fifteen years and a school has operated from the site. Their current lease expired on the 1st September last and they wish to renew the lease for a further five year period on the same terms and conditions which applied up to the 1st September last.

It is proposed to renew the lease for the next five year period on the same terms and conditions.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, of the disposal by means of a lease for 5 years of area of land measuring circa 1.6 acres at Cois na hAbhna, Ennis to Ennis Educate Together and subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 28th October, 2014.”

Item 7: Nominations to S.P.C.’s.

Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services presented a report to the members outlining details of sectoral nominees notified to the Council to date. The report also noted that four nominees are awaited at this time.

Item 8: Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, to inter alia, incorporate the ‘Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (S.I.F.P.) for the Shannon Estuary’

Consideration of the proposed Variation no. 2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the “Chief Executive’s Report to the Elected Members on Submissions received to the proposed Variation no. 2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017”.

Making of Variation no. 2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017.

Chief Executive’s Report to Elected Members on Submissions received to the Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 was circulated to the elected members on 16th October, 2014.

The report states that the proposed Variation no. 2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 seeks to incorporate the “Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (S.I.F.P.) for the Shannon Estuary” zone lands at 2 strategic locations – Inishmurry/Cahiracon and Moneypoint and replace the existing Chapter 14 of the Development Plan with a new chapter containing new text, policies and objectives.

The proposed variation was placed on public display from 22nd August to 22nd September. A total of 14 submissions were received within the statutory period. Each submission received has been considered. The next stage is for the elected members to consider the proposed variation to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the Chief Executive’s report.

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Chambers
Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. McNamara agus glacadh leis

“Following consideration by the Elected Members of:

The proposed Variation no.2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, dated August 2014;

The associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (Environmental Report) and Habitats Directive Assessment, dated August 2014;

The "Chief Executive’s Report to Elected Members on Submissions received to the Proposed Variation No.2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017”, dated 16th October 2014

The Mid West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022;

The policies and objectives of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017;

The policies and objectives of the Minister contained in the Guidelines prepared under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended);

Any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or Minister for Government;

The statutory obligations of any local authority in the area;

The proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the plan relates; and

Our determination, in accordance with Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), that the proposed variation, subject to the modifications recommended in the Chief Executive's Report, is not likely to have any significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site within, or adjacent to, the plan area

therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) this Council hereby resolves to make the Variation no.2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, subject to the following:

1. To include all recommendations in the "Chief Executive's Report to Elected Members on submissions received on the proposed Variation no. 2 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, dated 16th October 2014;

Item 9: Agreement pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 between Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council for the Lough Derg Signage Strategy.

Report from Anne Haugh, Director of Services was circulated with the agenda. The report states that Tipperary County Council has agreed to act as lead authority for the implementation of the Lough Derg Signage Strategy in Counties Clare, Galway and Tipperary. This will involve the necessary procurement and erection of the signage on the Regional and Local routes around the Lough Derg Lakelands area as per the Lough Derg Signage Strategy.

For this purpose, it is necessary for Tipperary County Council to put a Section 85 Agreement in place with Clare County Council. This agreement will allow Tipperary County Council and the appointed Contractors to carry out works in the functional Area of Clare County Council.

The estimated cost for the procurement and erection of signage is €375,000. At the June 2014 meeting of the Lough Derg Marketing Group it was agreed that each of the local authorities would make a contribution towards the final implementation of the signage strategy for the Lough Derg Lakelands region. It has been agreed that Clare County Council will make a contribution of €25,000. The remaining funding has been sought as a Joint Project by the three local authorities through the €2m. Lough Derg Stimulus Fund that was announced in May 2014 by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Phase 4 Infrastructure Stimulus: Investing in Recovery and Growth.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. O'Brien
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Burke agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council enter into an agreement with Tipperary County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to carry out the necessary procurement and erection of signage on the Regional and Local routes around the Lough Derg Lakelands as per the Lough Derg Signage Strategy.”

Item 10: Report in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2010 for the proposed construction of the West Clare Railway Greenway.

Report dated 5th November, 2014 from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda together with report from Gordon Daly, Senior Planner. The report states that it is proposed to develop a Greenway, circa 4.5 km. of a shared pedestrian and cycle facility on a route from Woodquay Car Park, Clonroad Beg, Ennis to Ballymaquiggan, Ennis.

Submissions were invited from the public in the local newspaper on the 5th September last. Details of the submissions received are outlined in the report.

The recommendation of the planning department is that the development as proposed would proceed subject to the conditions outlined in the report of the Senior Planner.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. McNamara
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That pursuant to Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2010, Clare County Council proceed with the proposed construction of the West Clare Railway Greenway.”

Item 11: Monthly Management Report.

The monthly management report attached to the agenda included key objectives and main activities in the principal service areas and was noted by the members.

Item 12: From October Agenda - Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. P.J. Kelly.

“That Clare County Council, mindful of successful challenges to a circular from a Government Department, seeks appropriate legal opinion of the lawfulness of recent circulars which have been financially punitive.”

Report of John Shaw, County Solicitor in response to the above motion was brought to the attention of the members. The Chief Executive responded to a number of queries raised and advised that the vast majority of circulars do not impact on reserved functions. In response to Cllr. Kelly, he outlined that many circulars are explanatory and would not require a legal opinion.

Item 13: Budget.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. C. Curtin agus J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That a report be made available on

- The unspent amount(s) in each budget programme for the 2013 financial
- If any amount was transferred from one programme to another

- How the surplus (if any) was expended
- Details of legislative provisions which deal with un-expended finances at the end of a financial year.
- Implications of unspent money for 2014 budgetary out-turns and ongoing consequences for income and expenditure proposals as part of the 2015 Budget.”

Niall Barrett, Head of Finance replied as follows:

“I wish to reply as follows:

The unspent amount(s) in each budget programme for the 2013 financial year.

Set out below in the table is a comparison of actual expenditure to budget expenditure in each service division for 2013.

Expenditure

Division	Actual €000	Budget €000	(Over)/Under Budget
Housing & Building	10,586	10,822	236
Roads Transportation & Safety	24,662	22,976	(1,686)
Water Services	22,309	21,358	(952)
Development Management	10,590	10,066	(524)
Environmental Services	13,175	13,016	(159)
Recreation & Amenity	7,632	7,546	(86)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	4,917	5,828	911
Miscellaneous Services	10,562	10,239	(323)
Total Divisions	104,434	101,850	(2,584)

Expenditure was under budget in two areas, Division A Housing & Building and Division G Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare. In those two cases there was also a reduced income.

If any amount was transferred from one programme to another.

Budgeted amounts were not transferred from one Division to another but form part of the overall financial result for the year compared to budget.

How the surplus (if any) was expended.

The overall financial result for the year was added to the cumulative opening deficit on the Councils Income and Expenditure Account.

Details of legislative provisions which deal with un-expended finances at the end of a financial year.

Section 107 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001 states “Every local authority and joint body shall each establish and maintain financial systems, accounts, reporting and record keeping procedures, including the preparation of an annual financial statement, which are consistent with such accounting code of practice, or amendments to it, that the Minister may issue from time to time.

The Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities states the following:

“In the following circumstances a local authority may create a specific reserve for inclusion in the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet).

Amounts Specifically Provided in the Budget

If an amount has been provided for in the budget (i.e. identified as a separate project) and remains unspent at the year-end, the amount unspent may be transferred from the Income and Expenditure Account to a specific reserve in the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet). These transfers should not include amounts included under a general expenditure classification in the estimates and that remain unspent.

Amounts Set aside by Resolution of the Council

Amounts may be set aside by specific resolution of the council to be expended on specific projects in future years. These amounts must be transferred to a specific revenue reserve.

Impact on Revenue Account Balance

Before a transfer is made to reserves the Head of Finance should take account of the impact on the revenue account balance. After making transfers as provided in the adopted budget, a local authority should not make any further transfers that will result in the creation of a deficit for the year.”

Implications of unspent money for 2014 budgetary out-turns and ongoing consequences for income and expenditure proposals as part of the 2015 Budget.

Based on the preparation of the draft budget 2015 the divisions where expenditure is forecasted as being less than the adopted budget 2014 are Division C, Water Services, and Division G, Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare. In both cases the lower expenditure is offset by a similar reduction in income in relation to the Irish Water Service Level Agreement, and the Recoupment of Higher Education Grants from the Department of Department of Education and Skills respectively, and does not impact on the 2015 budget.”

The reply was noted by the members present and the Head of Finance responded to a number of queries raised. It was agreed that the Head of Finance would provide details of the amount of funds in place at 1st January 2014 in the revenue reserve.

Item 14: Rates.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. McNamara
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“As part of rates equalisation I call on Clare County Council to introduce a rates refund grant that would give a 10% reduction up to a maximum of €300 to commercial rate payers throughout County Clare.”

Niall Barrett, Head of Finance replied as follows:

“2015 will commence the process of harmonisation of the rates between the previous Town Council and County Council areas within the new single rating authority area. The adjustment process, which may take up to a maximum of 10 years to complete, is referred to as the Base Year Adjustment (B.Y.A.) mechanism. The effect of the B.Y.A. in every local authority will be to neutralise any increase or decrease in rates in 2015 that would otherwise occur as a result of the rate struck by the members for the amalgamated authority as a whole. Ratepayers will pay no more or no less rates in 2015 than they did in 2014; with the exception that the town rates for Shannon and Kilkee will not apply.

The Commercial Rates equalisation process will begin in 2016 when the change in the Base Year Adjustment is determined as part of the budget process 2016 and each year thereafter. In the context of the 2016 budget process and later years, the council could consider a grant scheme to be phased in in parallel with, and in proportion to, the progress of the Base Year Adjustment changes. This would be a matter to be dealt with at budget time each year starting with the 2016 budget, and would include such items as the qualification criteria and the limits that would apply to the grant level.”

Item 15: Collection of household charges in 2014.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Hillery
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Slattery agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council would state the amount collected including arrears in N.P.P.R. and other house hold charges in County Clare in 2014”.

Niall Barrett, Head of Finance replied as follows:

“The N.P.P.R. charge was discontinued with effect from 2014. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for a period, from March 2014 to 31st August 2014, during which time no new late payment penalties were applied to existing N.P.P.R. liabilities; with increased penalties applying thereafter. During 2014 a significant amount of the N.P.P.R. charge, including late payment penalties, was received from the N.P.P.R. Bureau (which is the central collection point for the N.P.P.R. charge). In the first half of the year 2014, the council received income of €0.49m. as reflected in the result reported to council for the half year. In the third quarter to September 2014, the council received a further €0.75m., and to date in Quarter 4 the council has received €0.38m.

Household Charge was a charge levied on properties in 2012. This was collected by the council in 2012 with arrears of household charge collected up to the 1st July 2013. From the 1st July 2013

Revenue took over collection responsibility. From 1 July 2013, any outstanding Household Charge liability was included as part of the Local Property Tax liability for the property and is collected by the Revenue Commissioners.”

The report as circulated was noted by the members present and the Head of Finance responded to a number of queries raised.

Item 16: Staffing arrangements.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin
Cuidithe ag Cllr. R. Nagle agus glacadh leis

“That the Director of Service, Human Resources, outline the current staffing arrangements for each Municipal District and any possible adjustment of same, pending the lifting of the Public Service Employment Embargo, to cater for disparity of increased population, landmass, road mileage and other infrastructural needs of the individual districts”.

Eddie Power, Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources replied as follows:

“I have set out hereunder details of the staff in the Municipal District Headquarters.

Staffing in Municipal District Headquarters.

The following table outlines the number of staff in Ennis Municipal District Headquarters.

Ennis Municipal District Headquarters (under the Directorate of Mr. Gerard Dollard)	
Staff Officer	1
Assistant Staff Officer	1
Clerical Officers	2
Senior Executive Engineer	1
Executive Engineer	2
Clerical Officer	2
Senior Executive Technician	1
Executive Technician	1
Caretaker	1

Water Services Staff for the Ennis Area will be based in the offices at Drumbiggle, as follows;	
Executive Engineer	1
Clerical Officer	1
Technician Grade 1	1
Total Staff	15

The following table outlines the number of staff in Shannon Municipal District Headquarters.

Shannon Municipal District Headquarters (under the directorate of Mr. Niall Barrett)	
Senior Executive Engineer	1
Executive Engineer	1
Staff Officer	1
Clerical Officers	3
Executive Technician	1
Water Services staff for the Shannon Area based in Shannon Municipal District Headquarters	
Executive Engineer	1
Assistant Staff Officer	1
Senior Executive Technician	1
Total Staff	10

The following table outlines the number of staff in Killaloe Municipal District Headquarters.

Killaloe Municipal District Headquarters (under Mr. Michael McNamara)	
Senior Executive Engineer	1
Executive Engineer	1
Staff Officer	1
Clerical Officers	1
Water Services staff for the Killaloe Area based in Killaloe Municipal District Headquarters	
Executive Engineer	1
Clerical Officer	1
Executive Technician	1
Total Staff	7

The following table outlines the number of staff in Shannon Municipal District Headquarters.

West Clare Municipal District Headquarters (under the Directorate of Ms. Anne Haugh)	
Senior Executive Engineer	1
Executive Engineer	1
Staff Officer	1
Assistant Staff Officer	1
Clerical Officer	2
Community Warden	1
Caretaker/Cleaner	1

Water Services staff for the Kilrush Area based in Municipal District Headquarters in Kilrush	
Executive Engineer	1
Clerical Officer	1
Executive Technician	1

The following table outlines the number of staff in Ennistymon Service Centre.

Ennistymon Service Centre (under the Directorate of Ms. Anne Haugh)	
Executive Engineer	1
Assistant Staff Officer	1
Burren Connect Officer	1
Clerical Officers	1
Community Warden	1
Caretaker/Cleaner	1
Water Services staff for the North Clare Area will be based in the Ennistymon Service Centre	
Executive Engineer	1
Clerical Officer	1
Executive Technician	1
Total Staff	20

Outdoor staff in each Municipal District

The following sets out the number of outdoor staff in each Municipal District as of November, 2014

Municipal District	Ennis Municipal District	West Clare Municipal District –	Shannon Municipal District,	Killaloe Municipal District,
Number of Outdoor Staff	34	61	12	35

The new Municipal District structures as you are aware were established and organisational change came into effect on 1st June, 2014.

I previously indicated to the Council that activity levels in the Municipal Districts would be carefully monitored.

Management’s objective is to ensure that service delivery objectives are achieved. The level of activity will influence the assignment of staff to the Municipal Districts and indeed throughout the Organisation. The business needs of the Council and compliance with its statutory obligations are factors to be considered in the deployment of staff.”

The report as circulated was noted by the members present and both the Chief Executive and Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources responded to a number of queries raised and referred to the embargo still in place and the extra costs associated with additional staff.

Item 17: Animal Welfare Services.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Howard agus glacadh leis

“To ask the Director of Services for a breakdown of how many animals were:-

- (a) Taken into care by animal welfare services within the last year?
- (b) Re-homed within the last year?
- (c) Euthanised within the last year?”

Anne Haugh, Director of Service replied as follows:

“**Period:** 1st January ’14 – 30th October ’14

(a) **Dogs:** Seized - **396/Surrendered - 424.**

Horses: Impounded – **25**

1(b) **Dogs:** Re-homed - **411.**

Horses: Re-homed – **Nil.**

2(b) **Dogs:** Reclaimed by owner – **181.**

Horses: Reclaimed by owner – **Nil.**

(c) **Dogs:** Euthanised – **228.**

Horses: Euthanised – 25.

Clare County Council only deal with Dogs and Horses. These figures do not include statistics from the animal welfare groups.”

The reply as circulated was noted by the members present and Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Services responded to a number of queries raised.

At this point in the meeting, Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Crowe had to be excused as both he and the Chief Executive were required to attend a function in Shannon. An Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. O’Brien presided in his absence.

Item 18: Oireachtas Members.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly
Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. O’Brien agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council invite all members of the Oireachtas in Co. Clare to attend a meeting of the Council to detail their pre-enactment stance, current viewpoint and future proposals with regard to Section 2 (Subsection 2) of Local Government Reform Act, 2014. (No. 1 of 2014).

The following amendment signed by Cllrs. J. Flynn J. Cooney, P. Murphy, M. Howard, G. Keating, P. Burke and B. Slattery was handed to the Leas Cathaoirleach and moved by Cllr. J. Flynn.

“The Clare County Council write to all Oireachtas members representing Co. Clare requesting that they write to the Minister for Environment Mr. Alan Kelly T.D. to amend the legislation to resolve concerns with S2 (Subsection 2) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (S1 of 2014).”

The Leas Cathaoirleach called a vote on this amendment which resulted as follows:

For: Cllr. J. Flynn, Cllr. M. Howard, Cllr. P. Murphy, Cllr. J. Cooney, Cllr. P. Burke, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. G. Keating. (7)

Against: Cllr. P. Daly, Cllr. A. Norton, Cllr. T. McNamara, Cllr. Colleran Molloy, Cllr. P. Hayes, Cllr. M. Begley, Cllr. T. O’Brien, Cllr. A. O’Callaghan, Cllr. C. Crowe, Cllr. G. Flynn, Cllr. P.J. Ryan, Cllr. P. McMahan, Cllr. M. McKee, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. P.J. Kelly, Cllr. B. Chambers. (18)

Abstentions: Cllr. C. Curtin.

The Leas Cathaoirleach declared this amendment lost.

He then called a vote on the substantive motion as on the agenda which resulted as follows:

For: Cllr. P. Daly, Cllr. A. Norton, Cllr. T. McNamara, Cllr. Colleran Molloy, Cllr. P. Hayes, Cllr. M. Begley, Cllr. T. O’Brien, Cllr. A. O’Callaghan, Cllr. C. Crowe, Cllr. G. Flynn, Cllr. P.J. Ryan, Cllr. P. McMahan, Cllr. M. McKee, Cllr. C. Curtin, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. P.J. Kelly, Cllr. B. Chambers. (19)

Against: Cllr. J. Flynn, Cllr. M. Howard, Cllr. P. Murphy, Cllr. J. Cooney, Cllr. P. Burke, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. G. Keating. (7)

An Leas Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Item 19: Community Employment Scheme.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. McNamara
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P. Daly agus P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis

“That this Council call on Kevin Humphreys Minister of State at Department of Social Protection with Special Responsibility for Activation to allow participants who are eligible for a Community Employment Scheme to work on the scheme for a minimum of 3 years.”

Item 20: Shannon Group.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. McMahon
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis

“That the Council express it’s concern to Shannon Group about the derelict state of buildings in the vicinity of Shannon Airport, Industrial Estate and Smithstown”.

It was agreed that Item 27, notice of motion submitted by Cllr. I. Lynch on the agenda could be dealt with under this item as they relate to the same subject.

Item 27: Shannon Properties.

Ar moladh Cllr. I. Lynch
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That the directors of Shannon Properties formerly Shannon Development present a report to this council indicating -

- a. Current property, assets and other holdings
- b. Type and location of occupied properties with current tenants
- c. Type and location of vacant properties in need of repair and ready to occupy
- d. Short term and long term plan to make all properties available for occupation
- e. Short and long term plans of Shannon Properties to market current properties and assets in the interest of job creation within Co. Clare”.

After some discussion it was agreed that any outstanding matters could be raised with the Shannon Properties Group who would be addressing the Council members at a briefing at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 12th November 2014.

As the time had now reached 6:30 p.m. the members present agreed to continue until 7:00 p.m. with a view to concluding the agenda.

Item 21: Seanad Éireann.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. O'Brien

“Call for relocation of Seanad Éireann to Ennis

Following on from the recent Reform of Local Government (which dramatically reduced the numbers of local government representatives and structures under the 19th Century model with less on the basis that the changes would result in better local governance for the 21st century); that Clare County Council request the Government consider for urgent similar meaningful measures of Reform of Central Government starting with the relocation of Seanad Éireann out of the Commercial Capital to the county-town of Ennis. A Seanad located in the West with wider powers to look at social, rural, environmental, etc. impacts of National and EU draft legislation could become a Seat of Conscience to provide a counter balance to the Dáil, the Seat of political Power in the East. Ireland, Clare and Ennis this year are celebrating the High King of Ireland Brian Boru 1014 and are in the decade of Centenary celebrations including the Rising of 1916, Clare elections of 1917, etc. Clare and its Capital Ennis has demonstrated itself a cradle of democratic independent thinking during the 19th and 20th Centuries with for example 1828 and 1917 elections of O Connell and De Valera”.

After some discussion with many members voicing varying views on this proposal the motion as proposed was defeated on a show of hands.

Item 22: Registration of SIM cards.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council urge the Minister for Justice & Equality, Ms Frances Fitzgerald and Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Alex White, to examine the possibility of having all prepaid SIM Cards registered and also to ban the use of SIM free mobile phones. This is in the interest of law enforcement and to counter criminality”.

Item 23: Irish Immigrants in the U.S.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Howard agus glacadh leis

“A significant concentration of undocumented Irish immigrants in the U.S. hail from the Western seaboard, and 2,000 are understood to hail from County Clare. Each one of these would have at least 10 family members living in Clare, meaning that some 20,000 Clare people must experience their loved one’s absence at important times. I move that Clare County Council calls on Minister Jimmy Deenihan, the first ever Minister for the Irish Overseas and Diaspora, to exert all diplomatic and political efforts on President Barack Obama in the formulation of the impending Executive Order on Immigration due to be published in the coming weeks, to ensure the provision for visas on “humanitarian” grounds such as funerals of loved ones, thereby permitting undocumented

immigrants—of which there are approximately 50,000 Irish—the right of to apply for a visa allowing re-entry to the United States”.

Item 24: Water Charges.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. M. Begley agus B. Chambers agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council call for a suspension of all water charges until an honest debate on the role and future of Irish Water be held in Dáil Éireann following the controversies surrounding the organisation and until the completion of this review and a proper strategy devised from Government”.

It was agreed that Item 25, notice of motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes on the agenda could be dealt with under this item as they relate to the same subject.

Item 25: Water Charges.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Hayes
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Daly agus glacadh leis

“I propose that Clare County Council call on the Government and the Minister for Environment to immediately suspend the introduction of water charges until a proper fair and equitable system be put in place, and seek a total review of Irish Waters capacity to deliver water services in the future to homes and businesses in Ireland”.

The Leas Cathaoirleach called a vote on motion 24 as on the agenda which resulted as follows:

For: Cllr. J. Flynn, Cllr. P. Daly, Cllr. A. Norton, Cllr. P. Murphy, Cllr. Colleran Molloy, Cllr. P. Hayes, Cllr. M. Begley, Cllr. T. O’Brien, Cllr. P. Burke, Cllr. A. O’Callaghan, Cllr. C. Crowe, Cllr. P.J. Ryan, Cllr. P. McMahon, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. C. Curtin, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. G. Keating. (21)

Against: Cllrs. M. McKee and G. Flynn. (2).

The notice of motion was deemed carried.

The Leas Cathaoirleach called a vote on motion No. 25 as on the agenda which resulted as follows:

For: Cllr. J. Flynn, Cllr. P. Daly, Cllr. A. Norton, Cllr. T. McNamara, Cllr. P. Murphy, Cllr. Colleran Molloy, Cllr. P. Hayes, Cllr. M. Begley, Cllr. T. O’Brien, Cllr. P. Burke, Cllr. A. O’Callaghan, Cllr. C. Crowe, Cllr. P.J. Ryan, Cllr. P. McMahon, Cllr. C. Curtin, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. G. Keating. (21)

Against: Cllr. G. Flynn, Cllr. M. McKee (2)

The notice of motion was deemed carried.

Following a discussion the following further proposal was submitted signed by Cllrs. J. Flynn, P. Murphy, M. Howard, B. Slattery, G. Keating, P. Burke, J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council recognises the legal obligation arising from EU legislation and the bailout agreement that Ireland introduces water charges. However Clare County Council have concerns about the utility set up to manage water and sewerage services namely “Irish Water”. Clare County Council request Irish Water to attend the full Council to explain its structure, functions and charging system.”

The Leas Cathaoirleach called a vote on this which resulted as follows:

For: Cllr. J. Flynn, Cllr. P. Murphy, Cllr. P. Burke, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. G. Keating. (6).

Against: Cllr. P. Daly, Cllr. A. Norton, Cllr. T. McNamara, Cllr. Collieran Molloy, Cllr. P. Hayes, Cllr. M. Begley, Cllr. T. O’Brien, Cllr. A. O’Callaghan, Cllr. C. Crowe, Cllr. G. Flynn, Cllr. P.J. Ryan, Cllr. P. McMahon, Cllr. M. McKee, Cllr. C. Curtin, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. B. Chambers. (17).

An Leas Cathaoirleach declared the proposal lost.

The following further proposal signed by Cllrs. Gerard Flynn, Tom McNamara, Pat Daly, M. McKee, Ann Norton, P.J. Ryan, Cathal Crowe, Clare Collieran Molloy was then moved.

“That the Government be called on to reverse the imposition of water charges and instead use any resources available to repair the leaky pipework and return the management of water and waste water services to the local authority and retain these resources for the public benefit.”

The Leas Cathaoirleach called a vote on this which resulted as follows:

For: Cllr. P. Daly, Cllr. A. Norton, Cllr. T. McNamara, Cllr. Collieran Molloy, Cllr. P. Hayes, Cllr. M. Begley, Cllr. T. O’Brien, Cllr. A. O’Callaghan, Cllr. C. Crowe, Cllr. G. Flynn, Cllr. P.J. Ryan, Cllr. P. McMahon, Cllr. M. McKee, Cllr. C. Curtin, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. B. Chambers. (18)

Against: Cllr. J. Flynn, Cllr. P. Murphy, Cllr. P. Burke, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. G. Keating. (5).

An Leas Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

Item 26: Rural Post Offices.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. O’Brien
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis

“I will request that the Council obtain a commitment from the Minister and An Post to maintain rural Post Offices”.

In the absence of Cllr. J. Crowe this was proposed by Cllr. T O’Brien and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan.

Item 28: County and Municipal Districts.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council contact the Minister for Local Government and request a change in policy concerning the spending of public money at County and Municipal Districts, that would give County Councillors more of an input on how this public money is spent and would strengthen the partnership with officials on how essential services are delivered in a clear and transparent manner and respecting the mandate of the elected public representative”.

As the time had now reached 7:00 p.m. the Leas Cathaoirleach declared the meeting over and Items No. 29 and 30 were deferred to the December agenda.

Item 31. Comhfhreagras.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter dated 10th November, 2014 from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services in relation to mass for deceased members and staff of Clare Local Authorities which is being held on Friday, 14th November, 2014 in the Cathedral, Ennis.
- Correspondence dated 7th November, 2014 from John Shaw, County Solicitor, in relation to legal advice following on from notice of motion submitted by Cllr. P.J. Kelly at the October monthly meeting.
- Letter dated 10th November, 2014 from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services outlining details of briefing by the Board Members of Shannon Group taking place in the Council Chamber on Wednesday, 12th November at 2:00 p.m. (prior to Budget 2015 Meeting).

Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Correspondence dated 23rd October, 2014 from Shannon Airport in relation to the introduction of a specialised takeaway food facility at Shannon Airport.
2. Correspondence dated 23rd October, 2014 from Shannondoc in relation to the Shannon Doc dispatch centre.
3. Correspondence dated 23rd October, 2014 from National Asset Management Agency in relation to their role in relation to property.
4. Correspondence dated 28th October, 2014 from the Department of Health in relation to medical cards entitlements.
5. Correspondence dated 28th October, 2014 from the Department of Health concerning long term nursing home care under the Fair Deal Scheme.

6. Correspondence dated 24th October, 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality concerning the trafficking, exploitation and abuse of women and girls.
7. Correspondence dated 23rd October, 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources concerning the National Broadband Scheme.
8. Correspondence dated 23rd October, 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources concerning the satellite broadband voucher scheme.
9. Correspondence dated 28th October, 2014 from U.L. Hospitals in relation to the escalating waiting lists for long term nursing home care under the Fair Deal Scheme and also Medical Card Entitlements.
10. Resolution adopted by the Members of Ennis Municipal District in relation to the relocation of Seanad Éireann out of Dublin.
11. Training Seminar entitled “MABS & the Insolvency Service of Ireland” being held in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 14th & 15th November, 2014.
12. Training Seminar entitled “Meeting Management Principles & Best Practice” being held in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 21st & 22nd November, 2014.
13. Training Seminar for Councillors entitled “Funding Public Services – General Taxation or What?” taking place in the Park House Hotel, Main Street, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford on 28th & 29th November, 2014.
14. S&E and B.M.W. Regional Assemblies Joint Annual Conference 2014 entitled “Maximising EU Funding Opportunities 2014-2020” taking place in the Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford on 28th November, 2014.
15. Training Seminar entitled “The Effects of Budget 2015” taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 28th & 29th November, 2014.
16. Elected Members Training Seminar entitled “Alignment of Local Government & Local Development” taking place in the Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Road, Galway City on 5th & 6th December, 2014.
17. Training Seminar entitled “Housing & Local Government” taking place in Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow on 5th & 6th December, 2014.
18. Training Seminar entitled “Charities, Regulation & Legislation” taking place in Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 5th & 6th December, 2104.

Conferences.

Reports on Seminars/Conferences attended.

With regard to seminars/conferences attended, reports completed in accordance with Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001 were made available at the meeting.

Finance Training for Elected Members being held in the Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow on 16th September, 2014.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €340.33.

It was agreed that Cllr. R. Nagle attend this Conference.

Housing Training for Elected Members being held in Nenagh on 16th October, 2014.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €207.01.

It was agreed that Cllr. G. Keating attend this Conference.

L.A.M.A. Autumn Training Seminar entitled “Putting people first – is it a reality?” being held in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana on 17th & 18th October, 2014.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €340.70 including conference fee of €180.

It was agreed that Cllrs. R. Nagle, G. Keating, T. McNamara and J. Crowe attend this Conference.

A.I.L.G. Inaugural Annual Conference 2014 being held in Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on 29th & 30th October, 2014.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €65.15 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllrs. C. Colleran Molloy, M. Howard, P.J. Kelly, G. Keating, T. McNamara, P. McMahan, P. Daly and J. Crowe attend this Conference.

Planning Training for Elected Members being held in Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford on 6th November, 2014.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €378.08.

It was agreed that Cllrs. T. McNamara, G. Keating, B. Chambers, T. McNamara, P. McMahan and P.J. Kelly attend this Conference.

Planning Training for Elected Members being held in Trim, Co. Meath on 18th November, 2014.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €374.43.

It was agreed that Cllrs. T. O’Brien and M. Begley attend this Conference.

Briefing by Irish Water for elected representatives taking place in the Silver Springs Moran Hotel, Tivoli, Cork on Thursday, 30th October, 2014.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €73.37.

It was agreed that Cllr. M. Hillery attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Minutes of the Budget 2015 Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Wednesday, 12th November, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillors J. Breen, J. Flynn, P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Collieran Molloy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.
- Michael McNamara, Meetings Administrator.
- Siobhan Garvey, Staff Officer.
- Ger Dollard, Director of Service.
- Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Caroline O'Connor, Management Accountant.
- Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Crowe presided.

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Curtin and seconded by Cllr. P. Daly and agreed by all other members present that the meeting would be adjourned for 15 minutes until 3:29 p.m. to allow the Shannon Properties Group conclude their presentation to the Council.

The meeting commenced at 3:29 p.m. At the outset, the Cathaoirleach called on the Chief Executive to give a brief overview of the Budget. Mr. Coughlan advised the members that as a result of new legislation, a number of changes to the budget process had taken place this year. He raised a concern with regard to the rate of change and reform within the Local Authority sector and the scale of these changes are significant and challenging, despite this the Council have endeavoured to maintain budgets as much as possible in line with the 2014 Budget.

Mr. Coughlan highlighted the main aspects of Budget 2015 which included the fact that the Local Government Fund would not be available going forward and instead the Local Authority would have to rely on raising finances at a local level via the Local Property Tax. He reported that the Department of Transport had not yet advised of the roads allocation for 2015 but the Budget had been prepared on the basis of the same level of funding as that received in 2014. He reminded members that establishment of the L.E.O., the LCDC and PPN and the development of the Municipal Districts would have an impact on the Budget for 2015 and that although commercial rate levels would remain the same for 2015, the harmonisation process would be commencing in 2016. In relation to Water Services he stated that the Council has a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

He advised that a series of meetings to consider the preparation of the Draft Budget had taken place with the Corporate Policy Group and all members had been briefed on new changes to the process and the draft which had been presented for consideration had been the subject of intensive deliberation.

He concluded by thanking the Cathaoirleach, the Corporate Policy Group and all the Elected Members for their advice, assistance and constructive approach in reviewing the issues surrounding the Budget. He also thanked the contribution of all staff in the Council in preparing this Budget especially the staff in the Finance Department.

The Head of Finance addressed the meeting and outlined the main changes in the Budget process this year which included the introduction of new terminology and processes that would be involved in the harmonisation of the rates and calculation of the base year adjustment which will have no impact on the 2015 Budget but will be a consideration in 2016 and thereafter.

Cllr. P.J. Kelly raised a query with regard to the preparation of the Budget for the Municipal Districts and if consultation had taken place with the members of the Municipal Districts to arrive at their allocation. The Chief Executive replied to this query and advised that the General Municipal Allocation for each district has been discussed and agreed with the Corporate Policy Group and had been adopted by the four Municipal Districts.

Division A. Housing and Building

Division D Development Management

Ger Dollard addressed the meeting and provided a brief overview of activities for these areas. He reported that the vacancy level of local authority housing was relatively low at present, however traveller accommodation remained a challenge. The same provision has been made for housing grants for 2015 as that provided in 2014. In the area of Development Management, an increase of planning applications has been noted and this increase is expected to continue for 2015 which should result in an increase in revenue. The Council is obliged to pay for the staffing of the LEO and the creation of the PPN and LCDC will involve a public consultation process the cost of which the Council will have to cover. The area of Taking in Charge is being prioritised at present, however legal costs must be considered.

It has been positive year in terms of tourism development with the Cliffs of Moher reaching one million visitors in September. Work on the commemoration of 1916 will begin during 2015. A number of major projects are being looked at by the Council, all subject to funding including the acquisition and development of Holy Island and the creation of the National Diaspora Centre in Bunratty.

A number of queries were raised by members regarding these divisions which were all responded to by Ger Dollard. Mr. Dollard also drew the members attention to the Capital Reports contained in the Budget book relative to these divisions.

Division E Recreation and Amenity

Division H Central Management Charges

Niall Barrett, Head of Finance outlined the main issues covered within these areas, including the Library service, County Museum, Glór and the area of Information Technology. Cllr. C. Crowe asked that consideration be given to acquiring new and important artefacts for the County Museum if budget permits and thanked the Council for their recent acquisition of archive material concerning the late Patrick Brennan T.D.

A number of members also raised the issue of rolling of wifi for the libraries.

The Head of Finance highlighted details of the Capital Programme 2015-2017 contained in the draft Budget, which was noted by the members.

Division B Road Transport and Safety

Division C Water Services

Division F Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare

Division G Miscellaneous

Anne Haugh provided an overview of activities within these areas and highlighted that as the Roads allocation had not yet been received, figures for 2014 had been inserted into the draft Budget until the allocation would be known which is not expected until sometime in the New Year. She reported that the Regional Waste Management Plan was currently at public consultation stage and this process would be continuing during 2015. An area for some concern is that the cost of recycling is increasing while grant allocations for the operation of recycling facilities have been reducing year on year. Income from the collection of wet waste at Council facilities has also been on the decline which is impacting on revenue budgets. Other areas where funding is decreasing includes the Control of Horses and Waste Enforcement Grants.

A number of queries were raised relating to these divisions in particular within the area of Irish Water, which were all responded to by Anne Haugh.

Anne Haugh also drew the members attention to the Capital Reports contained in the Budget book relative to these divisions.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Executive, Directors of Services and Head of Finance for their overviews and presentations and then opened the debate to the floor for observations/queries.

Dissatisfaction from many members was noted with regard to the fact that Road allocations are not available until after the Council is obliged to adopt a Budget and many felt that it was impossible to adopt a Budget while being in the position of not knowing revenue for the year ahead. The Chief Executive replied and advised that this has been the position for the past number of years and that despite this the Council were being asked to adopt the Budget or risk being dissolved as per legislation.

Cllr. J. Flynn and Cllr. I. Lynch queried where savings were generated by the abolition of the Town Councils. The Chief Executive replied that savings were not made directly as all staff are still employed by the Council and offices are still operating etc. but that efficiencies would be achieved going forward.

After some discussion on the matters raised, the Cathaoirleach asked that members needed to make a decision to either adopt or reject the Budget as presented or adjourn the discussion to a later date.

It was proposed by Cllr. R. Nagle and seconded by Cllr. B. Chamber and agreed by all members present that the meeting would be adjourned for a period of 10 minutes to allow discussion among the groups.

The meeting resumed after a 10 minute adjournment.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. G. Flynn that the Budget as proposed be adopted but subject to the Capital Funding allocation for 2015 of €550k being reduced to €350k to allow a further allocation of €50,000 to each of the Municipal Districts. The Head of Finance replied that this could be dealt with by way of the Annual Financial Statement and recommended that this proposal should not detract from the proposed Budget as presented being adopted at this point.

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. G. Flynn:

"That pursuant to Section 103(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 the Draft Budget 2015 as presented by the Chief Executive is hereby adopted".

A number of members indicated their opposition to this proposal. The Cathaoirleach called a vote on this proposal which resulted as follows:

In favour: Cllrs. P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O' Brien, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating. (21)

Against: Cllrs. J. Breen, J. Flynn, I. Lynch (3).

Abstentions: Nil.

The Cathaoirleach declared this resolution carried.

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. R. Nagle and seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara:

"That the Council hereby determine in accordance with the Budget 2015, the rate set out in Table A (General Annual Rate on Valuation of €72.99) to be the rate on valuation to be levied for the year 2015 for the purposes set out in Tables A to F."

A number of members indicated their opposition to this proposal. The Cathaoirleach called a vote on this proposal which resulted as follows:

In favour: Cllrs. P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O' Brien, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating. (21).

Against: Cllrs. J. Flynn, I. Lynch (2)

Abstentions: Cllr. J. Breen (1).

The Cathaoirleach declared this resolution carried.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members, Chief Executive, Directors of Services and Head of Finance and their staff for their co-operation in the preparation and adoption of the Budget for 2015. He also thanked members of the Corporate Policy Group for their input into the Budget process.

The meeting then concluded at 6:30 p.m.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____