

**Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 3:45 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, A. O'Callaghan, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahan, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Carmel Greene, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Loretta McNamara, Staff Officer.
- Ms. Karen Stackpoole, Staff Officer.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Service.
- Mr. Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Service.
- Mr. Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Service.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer.
- Mr. Mark Dunphy, Communications Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tom McNamara presided.

**Vote of sympathy.**

At the outset a vote of sympathy was expressed to the following:

- The O'Sullivan family, Kilmaley on the death of Gerard O'Sullivan, – son of retired Council employee Pat Joe O'Sullivan.
- The Fitzgibbon family, Crusheen on the death of Tom Fitzgibbon – retired Council Employee and brother of Eddie Fitzgibbon, East Clare Water Services, brother in law of Cllr. Joe Cooney.
- The Cosgrove family on the death of Liam Cosgrove, Former Taoiseach, Dublin.
- The McInerney family on the death of Tom McInerney, Pilot Hill, Kilbaha.
- The Blake family, Doonbeg on the death of Pat Blake.

Prayers were then recited for the deceased. It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach and seconded by all members present that a minutes silence be held to remember the deceased.

### **Special Thanks**

Cllr. A. Norton acknowledged the great achievement of Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer on completing the Iron Man Challenge in Barcelona and thanked him for his support in promoting the Clare Crusaders Clinic.

### **Update on Deputation regarding meeting with Regina Doherty, Minister for Social Protection.**

The Cathaoirleach updated the members on the recent meeting held with Minister Doherty further to Cllr. J. Cooney's Motion No. 16 adopted at the September 2017 Monthly Meeting. Also in attendance were the four Chairs of the Municipal Districts, Cllrs. Joe Cooney and Pat Hayes, and Mr. Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Services, Rural Development.

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that the meeting was very positive and while no definite guarantee was received by them in relation to changes to the schemes they were, however, very hopeful that the criteria in relation to age would be looked at by her department in the near future.

### **Clarification**

Cllr. G. Flynn as Chair of the Standing Orders Committee requested clarification on the placing of Item No. 7 in relation to a briefing on the agenda. The Cathaoirleach clarified that this was an error and should not have appeared on the agenda.

The Cathaoirleach took the opportunity to thank Ms. Karen Stackpoole for her efficient and pleasant manner as Secretariat to the Council Meetings and wished her well in her new role.

### **Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.**

a. Ar moladh Cllr. J. Cooney  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Chambers agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the September Meeting of Clare County Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 be adopted and signed.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Clare County Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 be adopted and signed.”

c.Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Clare County Council on the Local Property Tax held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 be adopted and signed.”

**Item 2: Matters Arising.**

Cllr. C. Curtin commended the Meetings Administrator for the introduction on the Agenda of the item “Matters Arising”.

No matters arising were raised at the meeting.

**Item 3: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.**

a.Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 be noted.”

b.Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Daly agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 be noted.”

d.Ar moladh Cllr. A. O’Callaghan  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Burke agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 be noted.”

e. Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Slattery agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 be noted.”

**Item 4: Minutes of S.P.C. Meetings.**

a. Ar moladh Cllr. R. Nagle  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Keating agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Rural Development S.P.C. meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 be noted”.

b. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Murphy  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Keating agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Social Development S.P.C. meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 be noted”.

c. Ar moladh Cllr. R. Nagle  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Economic Development S.P.C. meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 be noted”.

**Item 5: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.**

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 as presented.

#### **Item 6: Monthly Management Report.**

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

The members again commended the Chief Executive for the quality of the newly formatted Monthly Management Report.

Cllr. C. Curtin thanked the Chief Executive for his clarification in relation to particular water services works and looked for an update in relation to Rockmount Water Treatment Plant. He expressed his concern in relation to the delay by the Department in announcing grants under the Rural Water Programme and the need to expedite the four stages involved in the Capital Housing Programme.

Cllr. M. Hillery looked for update in relation to Rockmount Water Treatment Plant.

Cllr. P. Burke commented on Clare County Council's allocation of €399,166 under the Rural Water Programme and stated his view that the allocation does not meet our requirements and does not provide any provision for group sewerage schemes. The Department should be notifying Council earlier in year so that works can be completed within the year by voluntary groups as there is no rollover of budget.

Cllr. J. Flynn was happy that tender documents were being prepared for Francis Street Pumpstation Upgrade and the work carried out on Ennis water mains rehabilitation project. He welcomed the installation of CCTV cameras on the Rocky Road under Phase 1 of the Anti Dumping Initiative. Ennis was one point short of winning National Tidy Town's competition.

The Chief Executive advised that the four stages involved in the Capital Housing Programme were being reviewed by the CCMA and they would be reverting to the Department.

Director of Service, Anne Haugh, replied to queries raised by the members. In relation to Rockmount Water Treatment Plant she advised that she would revert to Cllrs. C. Curtin and M. Hillery directly on this.

#### **Item 7: Briefing on "Water Framework Directive – River Basin Management Plan update" at 2:15 p.m.**

**It was clarified at the commencement of the meeting that this item was placed on the Agenda in error.**

John Leahy, Senior Engineer presented a briefing on "Water Framework Directive – River Basin Management Plan". He stated that the draft national river basin management plan for the water framework directive, 2nd cycle, was open for public consultation from February to August 2017. The final plan will include a list of the priority areas for investigation in each county. The purpose of this presentation was to give some of the background to this 2nd cycle river basin management plan, to list the priority areas selected for county Clare and to outline the approach that was taken in selection of these areas. There was a brief discussion on what can be expected in the final plan, which will be published in

December 2017. The Council has just been advised that the plan is still open for public consultation and there will be a final public meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the Temple Gate Hotel on the 26<sup>th</sup> October which gives everyone the opportunity to make any last submissions prior to issue of the final document.

The Members thanked the Senior Engineer for his presentation.

**Item 8: Presentation from Clare IFA at 3:00 p.m.**

Following on from a Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. B. Chambers and adopted by Councillors at the July 2017 meeting Messrs. Willie Hanrahan, Chairman, Clare I.F.A. and Willie Shorthall gave a presentation to Council.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed both gentlemen and thanked Mr. W. Hanrahan for accepting the invitation to give a presentation to the elected Council. The common goals of the Council and the I.F.A. are important in achieving the best for County Clare.

During the presentation the following issues were discussed:-

- That the I.F.A. is an integral part of the community and has always worked for the benefit of the community and the environment.
- The I.F.A. welcomed the establishment of the Rural Development Forum and Strategy and looks forward to working within this forum for a better future for County Clare.
- The I.F.A. recognises the importance of flooding protection and maintenance of our rivers and infrastructure. The lack of flood defences in some areas has devastating effects on vast areas of farmland.
- The I.F.A. recognises the potential of a Greenway in Co. Clare, but felt that the concerns of those affected by its presence have to be addressed. A collaborative approach is needed in the identification of route corridors and to use public lands first.
- The I.F.A. understands that hedgerows on rural roads need to be maintained but that co-operation between the landowner and the Council in this regard is very important.

The Cathaoirleach and Cllr. B. Chambers thanked Mr. W. Hanrahan for his presentation and advised that the Council will work with the I.F.A. for the future of the family farm. A number of Councillors raised concerns in relation to the importance of U.K. trade in the context of risks imposed by Brexit and the import of beef from South America into Europe.

Mr. W. Hanrahan thanked the Councillors for their support and replied to questions raised.

**Item 9: Civic Reception at 6:45 p.m. for Stockton's Wing.**

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Norton and seconded by Cllrs. P. Daly and C. Colleran Molloy it was agreed to hold a Civic Reception for Stockton's Wing on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 6:45 p.m.

The Civic Reception, was to honour and celebrate the Band's 40 years in existence and to thank them for their contribution to the music scene at home and internationally.

The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to the band and made a presentation to Mike Hanrahan to mark the event. Councillors expressed their thanks to the band for the great music and memories they have provided and continue to provide. They are fantastic ambassadors for both Ennis and Ireland.

The Chief Executive also supported the sentiments expressed saying that a civic reception was a very fitting tribute to a group that have produced such quality music and memorable live performances.

#### **Item 10. County Development Plan.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Breen

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy agus glacadh leis

“I am asking the CEO, Mr. Pat Dowling how he can justify the speech he made in Kilmaley in relation to depopulation of rural areas when the planning laws prohibit people living in towns and villages from building houses in the open country side. It is now time for a review of the County Development Plan with a view to repopulating these areas.”

#### **Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Service replied as follows:**

“The Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, adopted and is in effect since January 2017, sets out a rural and urban settlement strategy that aims to create a network of vibrant settlements supported by strong rural areas, in order to sustain population, provide jobs and services and ensure a high quality of life for those who live and work in County Clare.

In relation to housing in the open countryside, it is required to distinguish between rural generated housing (housing from rural persons from the established rural community) and urban generated housing (housing sought by persons already living and working in urban areas, including those seeking second homes).

The rural settlement strategy in the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, is evidence-based and responds to local circumstances in each townland of Clare, whether they are areas experiencing population decline or under substantial urban-generated pressure for housing. This approach is consistent with the requirements of National policy and Guidelines.

Under the County Development Plan, first and foremost, the rural housing requirements of persons with roots or links in local rural areas are facilitated across the County.

In certain rural areas of the county which are experiencing the significant pressure for housing in the open countryside, it is Council policy to favourably consider applications from urban residents for rural houses in identified clusters, infill sites or replace a substandard habitable house in the countryside.

The Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 also provides multiple opportunities for people living in towns and villages to build houses in the open countryside. Within the areas of the County which are experiencing depopulation, it is Council policy to favourably accommodate demands from all persons seeking to build a permanent place of residence in the countryside.

This approach ensures that growth in open countryside in areas that are going through a period of decline is promoted, whilst those areas under strong pressure for new development are carefully managed.

The Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, is successfully working to create vibrant towns, villages and rural communities across the county in a balanced and sustainable manner. The policies and objectives in the County Development Plan provide strong support for rural areas in decline and will work to ensure a strong, bright and vibrant future for rural areas throughout the county.”

Cllr. J. Breen stated that the picture for West Clare is very bleak and asked how can we expect people to repopulate the area if they cannot get planning permission. He feels what is required is a derogation from the County Development Plan in order to repopulate rural areas and wished to know could a derogation be applied for.

Cllrs. C. Colleran Molloy and C. Curtin requested an update from the Executive in relation to the European Union ruling that local rural person is contrary to EU law. A/Director of Services, Brian McCarthy advised that the Department are reviewing the matter and will issue guidance.

The Chief Executive repeated that the County Development Plan and Rural Strategy must be complementary and if there are issues we need to look at these and what specific actions need to be taken.

#### **Item 11. County Development Plan.**

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

“That, with a view to successful implementation of Clare Rural Development Strategy, the County Development Plan be reviewed with an objective of removing impedimentary aspects of the Plan.”

#### **Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Service replied as follows:**

“The Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 adopted and in force since January 2017 has a core objective to seek to achieve a County Clare with diverse and strong rural communities and economy. The Development Plan includes, for the first time, a specific chapter on Rural Development and proactively seeks to work toward the creation of strong and vibrant rural communities and the betterment of our rural areas.



The recently completed Clare Rural Development Strategy aims to be a catalyst for rural growth and development across County Clare. In order to achieve this, it sets out a series of innovative approaches to rural and community development.

The Clare Rural Development Strategy focuses on four things:

- targeting specific geographical areas in order to maintain and grow their populations
- providing special supports for combined towns and partnering parishes so that they can achieve sufficient scale of population and resources to attract public investment and justify private investment
- developing innovative and community-based social enterprise centres where multiple agencies can deliver their services
- increasing the quality of the physical, built, social and cultural environment of rural areas so that they are more attractive places in which to live both now and in the future.

The Rural Development Strategy will actively support the implementation of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023. Both policy documents share the same core values and in this regard, the Clare Rural Development Strategy and the Clare County Development Plan are complementary and are closely aligned with each other.”

Cllr. P.J. Kelly expressed the view that the biggest impediment to the success of the Clare Rural Development Strategy is the planning system and we need to review the County Development Plan and deal with policies that are incompatible with the Rural Strategy. Many want to build houses in rural areas but if they are not local they are not allowed and this is not only preventing people living in the area but also stopping the development of businesses.

Cllr. J. Flynn felt that new people coming into an area can re-energise rural communities. Holiday homes can contribute to the local economy.

Some members felt that a route and branch review was needed of the County Development Plan and develop a policy that responds to the needs of the local community.

The Chief Executive confirmed that he was very conscious of the long process that had been gone through before the County Development Plan was adopted in July 2016. Our collective objective is for the betterment of the County. A collaborative approach is required in order to improve rural Clare. This will take time and resources and a new way of thinking. We must make sure that the County Development Plan and Rural Strategy are complementary and if there are issues we need to look at these and what specific actions need to be taken. Work has commenced on the preparation of the Rural Strategy Work Plan and it is hoped to bring this forward to members in early 2018. In relation to the County Development Plan there is provision in the legislation for a mid-term review of the plan to take place in 2018.

## **Item 12. Shannon Airport.**

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

“In view of the recent PSO figures on passenger numbers at Irish airports, that this Council examine additional strategies to support Shannon Airport.”

**Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Service replied as follows:**

“Shannon International Airport is a major asset to the promotion of economic development in County Clare and Ireland’s west and mid-west region. As the country’s second long-haul airport Shannon Airport is a gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s premier tourist attractions.

The opening up of the M18 Motorway and preparation of the Draft National Planning Framework (N.P.F.) all in the last 2 weeks provides an immediate focus and opportunity for Clare County Council and the Shannon Group to maximise the potential of the airport. The M18 motorway now provides greater connectivity and a wider catchment throughout the West of Ireland from Shannon Airport to global markets and destinations. The draft N.P.F. due to be finalized by the year end will, importantly, be supported and aligned with the National Investment Plan (N.I.P.) 2018-2027 providing firm links between the objectives of the N.P.F. and long-term capital investment.

The immediate focus and strategy for Clare County Council will be to maximize the role, importance and potential of Shannon Airport in both N.P.F. and N.I.P. Building on recent initiatives such as new economic and tourism links with Rhode Island on the back of opening of new routes to the US, Clare County Council will continue to work closely with Shannon Group to examine additional strategies to support Shannon Airport.”

Cllr. P. McMahon outlined how Clare County Council has always supported Shannon Airport but concerns have been raised that Shannon is losing its status with a number of flights having been dropped, e.g. United Airlines have withdrawn from Chicago and Newark for a few months and improved infrastructure has made other airports more accessible.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan, also expressed his concerns in relation to the airport and referred to the fact that there were currently three vacancies on the Board of the Airport. Previously the Council approved the nomination of an elected member and the Chief Executive onto the Board and he wished to know what was the current status in relation to this. Cllr. G. Flynn advised that he had been nominated to the Board but it was not accepted as it had not gone through the Public Appointments Service. Cllr. C. Curtin supported the nomination of Cllr. G. Flynn and the Chief Executive to the Board.

Cllr. P. Daly felt that the Shannon Group should be doing more to promote the airport and suggested that the Council write to the Airport Authority recommending that they use the ambassador concept to promote the airport as has been done by Galway.

Views were expressed that the Shannon Group has a responsibility not only to the development of the airport but also to the wider community. Cllr. J. Flynn would like to extend an invite to the CEO of the Shannon Group to address the Council

on what they are going to do for County Clare. Cllr. P. McMahon advised the meeting that Shannon Group plc. has said that they would send a representative.

An update was requested on the invitation issued to Shane Ross, Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport to attend meeting. It was agreed to issue a reminder to him.

The Chief Executive clarified that a collaborative effort is made at all times on Shannon Airport. The appointment to the Board of Shannon Airport is governed by appointment to State Boards which fills vacancies through the Public Appointment Service.

### **Item 13. Retained firefighter model.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. G. Flynn, C. Curtin, M. Begley, P.J. Kelly agus I. Lynch agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council request a report on the sustainability of the retained firefighter model for delivery of fire and rescue 24 hour cover now and into the future in terms of work/life balance, income levels, population decline, staff retention, etc.”

#### **Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer replied as follows:**

“Clare County Council, as a Fire Authority as defined under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, are assigned a number of functions under Section 10 of said Act, including Section 10 (2) (a) & (b):

*10 (2) A fire authority shall –*

*make provision for the prompt and efficient extinguishing of fires in buildings and other places of all kinds in its functional area and for the protection and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire, and*

*establish and maintain a fire brigade, provide premises and make such other provision as it considers necessary or desirable for such purpose.*

The Operational Fire Service response in Clare is provided generally by Retained Fire Service personnel, with a Senior Fire Officer rostered on call each week to assist in the handling of more serious emergency incidents. The crews in the seven Fire Stations are provided by Retained Firefighters reporting to a Retained Station Officer (with the exception of Ennis, where the Station Officer position is Wholetime). The Station Officers report to the Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operational), whom is assisted in the day to day management of the Operational Service by an Assistant Chief Fire Officer.

#### **Current Retained Firefighter Model**

Retained Firefighters carry a pager and, within 5 minutes of an alert, are expected to report to their Fire Station and go mobile in a fire service vehicle to incidents as is the target for rural counties in Ireland at present (Keeping Communities Safe –

A Framework for Fire Safety in Ireland - 2013). Their Conditions of Employment are governed by national agreements including the 1973 (*Part-time Firemen employed by Local Authorities*) Agreement and the 1999 Composite Retained Firefighters Agreement, together with relevant Workplace Relations Commission rulings. These Conditions of Employment cover areas such as Health, Probation, Training, Residence, Availability, Duties, Attendance, Remuneration, Leave, Sick Pay, etc.

In 2004, agreement was reached through the assistance of the Labour Relations Commission with regards to crewing arrangements at Fire Stations in Clare – with minimum crew numbers being set for each Fire Station – this was to ensure that there would be adequate numbers of personnel available at all times to attend incidents. This crewing arrangement was further amended and is set out in the Adopted 2014 Section 26 Fire & Emergency Operations Plan and is as follows:

<b>Station</b>	<b>Available Personnel</b>	<b>Minimum Crew required</b>
Ennis Fire Station	15 No.	9 No.
Shannon Fire Station	12 no.	8 No.
Ennistymon, Scarriff & Kilrush Fire Stations	10 No.	7 No.
Killaloe & Kilkee Fire Stations	9 No.	6 No.

### **Reduction in Incidents attended by Fire Brigades in Clare**

There has been a general reduction of the number of incidents being attended by the Fire Service since 2010, when the Fire Brigades in Clare attended 1,355 incidents in 2010, in 2016 Fire Brigades in Clare attended 855 incidents, a 37% reduction in activity, and the current trend has seen a further reduction in incidents attended in the first 8 months of 2017. These reductions include:

<b>Incident Types</b>	<b>2010 Incidents Attended</b>	<b>2016 Incidents Attended</b>
Fires	850	398
Road Traffic Accidents	200	141
False Alarm Good Intent	132	92
Chimney Fires	265	126

Domestic Fires	57	43
Forest/Bog/Grass	262	59

The reasons for this reduction in incidents attended can be attributed to a variety of reasons including; increased appreciation of safety by members of the public, better infrastructure; effectiveness of Community Fire Safety Programs; etc.

### **Retained Fire Service Income Levels**

Retained Fire Service Personnel are remunerated under a number of different pay categories including Retainer (Availability) Allowance, Attendance at Incidents, Training & Special Duties.

- Retainer Allowance is paid for being available to attend upon receipt of an alert

<b>Rank / Length of Service</b>	<b>0 - 2 Years</b>	<b>2 – 5 Years</b>	<b>5 – 10 Years</b>	<b>10+ years</b>
Firefighter	€7,740	€8,600	€9,645	€10,599
Sub Officer/Driver Mechanic		€11,963	€13,417	€14,744
Station Officer		€15,803	€17,724	€19,476

- Attendance at Incidents, Training & Special Duties are paid based on the time worked with the pay rate related to the time of day/weekend

Hourly Drill Rate - €20.42

As can be seen from the above incident figures attended by the Fire Service, there has been a 37% reduction in incidents attended since 2010. However, while there has been a reduction in hours worked at incidents, Clare County Council has increased training hours in that time to continue to improve the level of response available to members of the public in Clare, so there is not a similar reduction in the Firefighter Pay element of expenditure –the expenditure of Firefighter Pay in 2010 was €2.598 million while 2016 was €2,258 million which is a 13% reduction.

### **Staff Retention**

There are currently 75 Retained Firefighter positions with Clare County Council. There are 68 personnel currently employed, with offers of employment gone to 3

no. persons, and interviews being arranged to fill outstanding vacancies and to have panels in place for each Fire Station.

Of the 68 personnel employed, 33 are with the Fire Service for over 10 years, 18 are with the Fire Service for between 5-10 years and 17 have been recruited in the last 5 years.

Over the years, ex-Clare Firefighters have been successful in advancing their careers into fulltime employment, with the extensive training and mentoring provided to them while they are employed by Clare County Council being a significant advantage for them. Clare County Council provides funding on an ongoing basis that allows for an extensive Training Programme to be delivered annually to its firefighters. This training covers all areas necessary for the delivery of the service to the public in their time of need by highly trained Firefighters. Fire Service Personnel leaving Clare County Council to further their careers in fulltime employment is not a new trend, and through the years we have seen ex-Firefighters from Clare employed within An Garda Síochána, National Ambulance Service, together with fulltime fire services in Galway, Limerick, Waterford & Drogheda to mention a few.

In the last 3 years (September 2014 – August 2017), 22 personnel have left the brigade for the following reasons:

- 6 No. retired on medical grounds
- 4 No. retired upon reaching retirement age
- 2 No. took up promotional posts with other Fire Authorities
- 4 No. took up other posts within Clare County Council
- 1 No. resigned to take up a post with a private company
- 2 No. resigned for personal reasons
- 1 No. did not successfully complete probation
- 2 No. passed away in service

This larger than normal turnover in personnel creates challenges for Clare County Council, because in addition to the loss of trained personnel, there is a large loss of experience and personnel that worked as a team together. Positions are filled through interview, with Clare County Council endeavouring to keep panels in place for all Brigades. It will be necessary to run an Initial Recruits Course locally such is the need for replacement staff currently, with such a course being planned for November of this year.

### **Moving Forwards**

This current trend is not particular to County Clare, and many other counties are experiencing a similar high turnover of Retained Fire Service Personnel. It is generally accepted that there are challenges with staff retention currently. It is also a reality that as the economy improves, more job opportunities become available to people.

As mentioned above, Retained Firefighter Conditions of Employment, Pay Rates, etc. are set at a national level, and it would not be possible for any one local authority to move in absence of changes at a national level. Currently there are

discussions at national level between Retained Firefighter representatives and Management with regard to a variety of matters that pertain to the Retained Fire Service, including the model of delivery of service. Clare County Council looks forward to the outputs of those discussions.”

Councillors thanked Chief Fire Officer, Adrian Kelly for his comprehensive response and praised the work being done by the Fire Service. Concerns were raised in relation to the significant turnover of staff and the difficulties in filling vacancies in the retained fire service model and that this needs to be reviewed. Cllr. J. Flynn recommended that this report be forwarded onto the Minister and relevant bodies at national level. Cllr. C. Curtin asked that the sub-committee on “Keeping Communities Safe” be reconstituted. It was agreed that this would go on the Agenda for the next S.P.C. for Physical Development Meeting.

Chief Fire Officer, Adrian Kelly, replied to all queries raised by the members and thanked them for their kind words.

The Chief Executive stated that at all times the Fire Service will be responsive to the needs and that the issues raised are not specific to County Clare but are part of a national debate.

#### **Item 14. Flooding.**

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

“That Clare County Council in view of the many episodes of severe flooding throughout the County be proactive in formulating a plan to help and assist communities in vulnerable areas and especially given the reality of global warming and the concurrent rise in sea levels that a priority plan be produced and implemented.

To strengthen and build flood defences in those areas identified by the O.P.W.’s CFRAM studies under the EU Directive on the assessment and management of flood risks.

Call on the Government to implement a National Flood Insurance Scheme to give peace of mind to home and business owners in flood risk areas.”

#### **Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer replied as follows:**

“The Council is already proactive on two levels in terms of responding to the issues referred to in this notice of motion. In broad terms, these two levels relate to

1. Our capacity to respond in engineering and humanitarian contexts in the event that flooding occurs in areas which we know to be vulnerable to flooding and
2. Our strategies to plan for and develop flood relief schemes, coastal strengthening works etc. based on severe weather experiences, feasibility and other strategic studies such as CFRAMs pertaining to the overall issue.

With regard to No. 1 above, the Council has developed a series of Flood Action Plans to be activated at several locations throughout the county where significant flood events have impacted on homes and businesses in the past. These plans provide indications of when risk is developing, how that risk should be responded to within reason, what resources should be ready for deployment and so on. There is constant monitoring of weather models particularly throughout the winter months and the information which emerges through the experiences of any particular severe weather event is collated and used to enhance data already in existence for the benefit of any future responses which may be necessary.

With regard to No. 2 above, CFRAMS and the coastal storms of early 2014 have been the primary indicators of coastal remediation and strengthening works to be prioritised while CFRAMS and a no. of inland severe flooding experiences over the years have been the driving force in determining prioritisation of inland flood relief schemes. In this regard, remediation works to the value of over €16m have been carried out at approximately 30 locations throughout the length of the county's coastline over the past 3 years and major feasibility studies have been completed in relation to 10 locations which require strengthening along the Atlantic and Estuary coastlines – in relation to which there is ongoing liaison with the O.P.W. with a view to prioritisation of an extensive works programme on foot of same.

An extensive inland (where the source of flooding is generally fluvial or pluvial in nature rather than coastal) flood relief programme is ongoing. Approximately 80% of the town of Ennis is now defended with the final 20% to be facilitated by the Ennis South Scheme which is expected to get underway in the near future. Apart from a no. of O.P.W. funded minor works schemes which have been carried out at various locations, intensive activity in terms of planning for schemes at Miltown Malbay, Ballyvaughan, Mortyclough, Springfield and other locations are ongoing.

Apart from the foregoing, a technical assessment of Shannon Town and Airport embankments is to be carried out over the coming months to determine their adequacy or otherwise to fulfil their defence role in the event of a severe coastal weather event. Planning for the on-site assessment works has been ongoing since earlier this year and the works themselves should be getting underway in a matter of weeks.

The foregoing is a brief outline of the Council's current approach in terms of dealing with present and future flooding risk. With regard to No. 2 above, the primary constraints are, as in most other capital works requirement situations, centred around available resources and varying environmental issues. Such issues tend to have a delaying effect in many situations but there is a continuing and persistent endeavour to keep projects moving through the various stages of development.”

Councillors discussed a number of flood related incidents throughout the county and the fact that some home owners have been denied insurance in relation to flood cover. Cllr. M. Begley requested a progress report in relation to Springfield, Clonlara. Cllr. P.J. Ryan felt that the O.P.W. needed to do their part. Cllr. G. Flynn wished to know how much had been spent on feasibility studies and what is



the time line for Shannon embankments. Cllr. C. Curtin advised that sites not within CFRAMS also need attention.

Senior Engineer, Tom Tiernan, replied to all queries raised by the members and confirmed that they do consult with local communities in order to benefit from local knowledge and this is recorded.

**Item 15. Illegal dumping.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy agus glacadh leis

"That, in order to protect our county's clean, green image, Clare County Council would

- (1) invest money in air quality monitors.
- (2) acquire more mobile CCTV units for monitoring illegal dumping.
- (3) work with the County's media outlets so that those prosecuted for illegal dumping are named and publicly shamed."

**Anne Haugh, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:**

"Clare County Council would welcome the opportunity to invest money in air quality monitors however such equipment is specialised and expensive in nature. Currently budgets and staff resources are not available to initiate such a broad programme.

The possibility of grant aid provision was investigated with the then Department of Environment Community and Local Government by Environment Section in April 2016, however advice we received was that there was no such funding available. The E.P.A. are the authorised body for ambient air monitoring in the country and already carry out air monitoring in Ennis town. The Department advised that they consider that investments in the monitoring network are best taken in the context of that E.P.A. monitoring programme in order to maximize efficiencies.

Clare County Council is in the process of acquiring more mobile CCTV units for monitoring illegal dumping, some of these units are being provided under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2017 funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment and some are being purchased from existing budgets.

In response to the Councillor's request that Clare County Council would work with the County's media outlets so that those prosecuted for illegal dumping are named and publicly shamed I wish to advise that Clare County Council must comply with current Data Protection Legislation. It is understood that publishing the names and addresses of private individuals fined or convicted as a result of littering or dumping, whether by way of publication on local authority websites or by way of notices published in the local press (notices paid for by the authority rather than court reports) is in breach of the principles of data protection as set

down in the Data Protection Act 1988 as amended by the Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003. The processing of personal data must be done fairly, demonstrate proportionality and not be overly prejudicial to the fundamental right of the individual to data privacy.”

Councillors queried if it was necessary to have signage advising that CCTV was in place, the possibility of naming and shaming those who have been prosecuted for littering and what air monitoring was being carried out.

Director of Services, Anne Haugh answered the queries raised by the Councillors including those in relation to the Council’s submission in relation to Irish Cement’s planning application.

#### **Item 16. Roadworks programme.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Hillery

"Due to 41.9% reduction in government roadwork grants since 2008, the National Oversight and Audit Commission has found that 22% of Co. Clare tertiary roads have severe structural defects and that another 15% have other defects, would the County Engineer inform the Council of the roadworks programme required to bring the roads up to 2008 standard of repair and the finance required for same."

#### **Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer replied as follows:**

“A similar notice of motion was submitted in January, 2016 which explained that the percentages which had been taken from the NOAC Report which was current at the time were not reflective of the complete schedule of roads in the county and therefore could not be relied upon to reflect the overall situation in the county. Notwithstanding same, the response to the January, 2016 notice of motion concluded as follows:

“2% of Regional Roads have been found to be structurally defective while 21% of Local Roads are structurally defective. 18% of Regional Roads require surface restoration while the percentage in relation to Local Roads is 25%. From an analysis of these figures and taking account of the level of grant allocations which are being made available at the present time, I estimate that the additional investment required to bring the Non-National Road Network back up to 2008 standards would be between €100m and €120m.”

The most up-to-date NOAC Report is awaited – I understand that it is due to be published in the near future. The figures in that report, when it emerges, should be more accurately reflective of the overall picture in the county than was the case at the beginning of 2016. From the information we have, the indications are that the NOAC Report which informed my response in January, 2016 under-estimated the extent of remediation works which would be required to bring the entire Non-National Road Network up to the standards which had evolved during the boom period which terminated in 2008. In this context and taking account of the fact that we have had two grossly under-funded Roadworks Programmes since January 2016, I estimate that the investment required based on present day costs to bring the network back up to 2008 standards would be in the region of €150m. This

deficit will continue to escalate while roads funding remains below the level at which it should be – at present the annual funding deficit stands at well over 40% but there are indications that funding will gradually improve over the coming years commencing in 2018.”

Cllr. M. Hillery welcomed the Local Improvement Scheme allocation but felt that the Council needs to make a strong case to Government in order to increase the funding allocation to bring roads up to standard.

Senior Engineer, Tom Tiernan responded to the queries raised by the Members.

### **Item 17. Western Commercial Corridor.**

Ar moladh Cllr. I. Lynch

Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn, Ann Norton agus glacadh leis

“The recent opening of the extended M18 provides an opportunity for a western commercial corridor providing much needed jobs in the County but also an opportunity for re-population of rural Clare, I request that Clare County Council commence a marketing campaign for towns and villages "rural" to the western corridor highlighting the excellent work life balance provided within a short commuting distance in an effort to maximise relocating families to rural Clare.”

#### **Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Rural Development replied as follows:**

“The new M17/M18 motorway as presented on the attached map is very much welcomed and will have many benefits including reducing journey times, improving connectivity and assisting in the economic development of the regions. The proposed marketing campaign for towns and villages is a positive action and will be incorporated in the implementation of the Clare Rural Development Strategy. The strategy aims is to improve the attractiveness of the main settlements in the hope that people will locate in them. One of the initiatives that has commenced is the roll-out of digitally enabled hubs and this will feature in any organised promotion. Please note that the attached map is for illustration purposes only.”

Cllr. I. Lynch stated that while the opening up of the motorway will result in more people working here, it will not result in an increase in those living here.

### **Item 18. Personal Assistants.**

Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton

Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Chambers agus glacadh leis

“People with disabilities often rely on a P.A. (Personal Assistant) to help in their day to day activities and allow the individual live an active life. The P.A. is working when accompanying the individual. With this in mind I am requesting

that

(a) Clare County Council pursue a policy in its own and all its associated projects, such as Glór, Cliffs of Moher, Sea World, etc., of not imposing charges on the P.A. when accompanying an individual when accessing facilities.

(b) The Clare County Council write to the relevant Ministers requesting that a policy be put in place for all state owned facilities, that ensure that a P.A. in carrying out their duties is not charged for accessing facilities.”

**Liam Conneally, Director of Service replied as follows:**

(a) Clare County Council public libraries and the County Museum are free of charge to all and it is the case for all such facilities in the ownership and direct management of Clare County Council that carers accompanying individuals under their care are admitted free of charge.

(b) The Active Ennis Leisure Complex provides a discounted entry rate to carers (with a valid ID) for use of the complex on their own time.

The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is fully accessible to visitors with a range of visitor services available on site to all visitors. Specifically for those with disability, we have 15 disabled parking bays. For those with mobility issues there is a short flat path from the Visitor Centre to the main Cliffs of Moher viewing area, approximately 150 meters. There are wheelchairs available on request. All paths have wheelchair access and the Visitor Centre building is fully accessible with disabled toilets. There are a number of seating areas dotted around the site. There are large print brochures, audio guides, induction loops for those with vision and hearing difficulties. From experience of dealing with customers with disabilities they are happy to be treated a paying visitor (at a reduced charge) for the level of service and comfort they receive at the Cliffs of Moher. It should be noted that all children under 16 go Free regardless of ability/disability. The normal admission charge applies to the carer or personal assistant.

Particular arrangements are in place for groups in this category which include free entry for members of an organised group and a Personal Assistant. A review of these charges will be carried out on adoption of this motion.

In relation to other facilities where Clare County Council are a stakeholder but are not involved in the direct management of the facility the following scenarios pertain:

(a) Glór Irish Music Centre offers free tickets to personal assistants when attending Glór programmed events and also operates a ticket policy that recognises that disabled audience members may need assistance to fully enjoy our cultural/artistic events and will allow the audience member to have a personal assistant accompany them free of charge.

Glór is proud to offer these tickets to demonstrate their commitment to enable disabled people to easily access Glór. In relation to events not programmed by Glór, Glór have advised that they would be delighted to participate with our partners as mentioned in the motion in producing a more robust policy to ensure that Glór can administer best practice in the provision of services for members of our community who require personal assistance. It is intended that in all contracts issued from October 2017 onwards that Glór will commit to actively requesting that any third parties that they provide box office services for would work with them to provide a similar, reasonable level of access to personal assistants. It should be noted that where an event is not programmed by Glór, such as when it is hired by a third party, free tickets for personal assistants can only be made available with prior contractual agreement with the hiring party/promoter. On occasion Glór provides box office services for external festivals. Free tickets for personal assistants can only be made available with prior contractual agreement with the festival involved.

- (b) Shannon Leisure Centre do not charge the Personal Assistant (P.A.) when they are attending an activity with the child/adult as their carer/P.A. and they also offer a discounted rate for persons with a disability for access the gym and/or pool.
- (c) In relation to Lahinch Seaworld, a Personal Assistant carrying out their duties is not charged for accessing or use of the facilities and there is a discounted entry price for a person with a disability to the pool, normal entry rates apply to the gym.
- (d) Kilkee Waterworld do not charge the Personal Assistant (P.A.) when they are attending an activity with the child/adult as their carer/P.A.

In relation to Item (b), if the motion is passed, arrangements will be made to write to the relevant Ministers.”

Cllr. A. Norton outlined her reasons for putting forward this Notice of Motion. Cllr. B. Chambers stressed the need for consistency throughout the organization and asked if Clare County Council could do a policy on this and could it be proposed to other ventures in the County. It was agreed that Clare County Council should write to the relevant Ministers (Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection and Minister of State for Disability) requesting that a policy be put in place for all state owned facilities, that ensure that a P.A., in carrying out their duties is not charged for accessing facilities. Cllr. G. Flynn also felt that P.A.’s should also be entitled to a free travel pass when they are carrying out their duties.

#### **Item 19. Income Receipts.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin

“That the Chief Executive update the Council on income receipts in Clare for motor tax, property tax and household charge (tax) from 2012 to 2016 respectively and to report specifically on the recoupment of €233,631 due to Clare County Council arising from the adjustment to the household charge (tax) receipts in 2012.”

**Niall Barrett, Head of Finance replied as follows:**

“Set out below is a table setting out the information requested:

Year	Motor Tax and Drivers Licences	Household Charge	Local Property Tax
	€m	€m	€m
2012	28.5	3.4	
2013	30.6	0.7	5.4
2014	30.8		10.5
2015	29.8		8.3
2016	28.0		8.4

Notes:

- In the case of motor tax part of the income is collected through the motor tax offices and remitted to the exchequer, the remainder is collected through the online system and remitted to the exchequer.
- The household charge was remitted to central funds and was not received directly by Clare County Council.
- Local Property Tax is collected directly by the Revenue Commissioners. The amounts shown for Clare are based on statistics issued by the Revenue Commissioners in April, 2017.

The General Purpose Grant allocation from the Local Government Fund was reduced by €243,631 in July 2012 (from the initial budget allocation for 2012). This reduction was based on the level of household charge compliance achieved up to July 2012. This adjustment was confirmed as final by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in September 2012. That position has not changed since then.”

Cllr. C. Curtin said that every effort should be made to recover this money for the people of County Clare and that the members had got assurances that the Council would get this money back.

At 6:30 p.m. Standing Orders were suspended to extend meeting for ten minutes.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Hayes  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy glacadh leis

**Item 20. Community banking service.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Ryan  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Chambers, P.J. Kelly agus glacadh leis

“That this Council would request Minister Denis Naughten to implement a new community banking service in all rural post offices in this county this service could be based on New Zealand system which has been found to work very well.”

**Item 21. Post office network.**

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Chambers  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. McMahon agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council calls on the government to act on its commitment as outlined in the Programme for a Partnership Government to implement an action plan for the post office network.”

Both motions were taken together.

Councillors supported both motions expressing the view that the loss of the local post office has serious consequences particularly for rural communities. As the New Zealand community banking system has been a success they felt that the Government should carry out an assessment on how this system would work here. They felt that the private members bill passed by Dáil Eireann needs to be acted upon. It was agreed to write to Minister Denis Naughten requesting that the Post Offices be kept open.

**Item 22. Reflective Hi Vis Vests.**

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

“Clare County Council request that the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Mr. Shane Ross consider that the wearing of **Reflective Hi-Vis Vests** for pedestrians, cyclists, motor cyclists and any other user of public roads that might be at high risk as a mandatory requirement.”

This issue was considered by the Joint Policing Committee following a presentation by Barry Keating, Road Safety Officer. A letter was sent to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport following that meeting.

### **Item 23. Housing.**

“In the backdrop of our national housing emergency and the stresses experienced by so many at risk of homelessness due to mortgage distress, that Clare County Council call on An Taoiseach to support enactment by the Oireachtas of the National Housing Co-op Bill 2017 to provide for the establishment of an Industrial & Provident Society to be called the **National Housing Co-operative Society** with the mandate and powers to acquire, manage, rent or sell distressed mortgages so that the occupants of houses can move from the status of distressed mortgagor by means of "rent and mortgage" AND that this Clare County Council Motion once passed, be copied to all other local authorities encouraging their adoption of similar such motion.”

Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy agreed that this item be deferred to the November meeting.

### **Item 24. Comhfhreagras. Correspondence.**

- It was proposed by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes and agreed by all members present that the Cathaoirleach would accept the invitation issued to him to attend the Clare Association Annual Dinner Dance in New York on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017.
- Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy requested clarification in relation to correspondence dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 from An Garda Síochána regarding GoSafe prosecutions in which it was stated “On occasion there may be a conflict in terms of court sittings resulting in a GoSafe operator being required in two courts at the same time resulting in a necessary request for an adjournment in one of the courts.”

### **Correspondence.**

#### **The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:**

1. Correspondence from Clare Association in New York inviting the Cathaoirleach to attend the 129<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017.
2. Correspondence dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 from the Health Service Executive in relation to home help services.
3. Correspondence dated 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 from An Garda Síochána regarding GoSafe prosecutions.
4. Correspondence dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to Rural Water Programme funding.



5. Resolution circulated by Offaly County Council regarding Social Housing Programme.
6. Resolution circulated by Monaghan County Council regarding school transport.
7. Resolution circulated by Leitrim County Council in relation to banning the use of glyphosate weed killers in all public areas.
8. Resolution circulated by Leitrim County Council in relation to Housing Grant Scheme.
9. AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2017 taking place in Sligo Park Hotel on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.
10. National Disability Authority's Annual Conference 2017 entitled "Making my own way: Supporting self-directed living in the community" taking place in Gibson Hotel, Point Square, North Dock, Dublin 1 on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.
11. Conference entitled "Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness" taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.
12. Training Seminar for Local Authority Members entitled "Housing in Crisis – Defining the Role of the Councillor" taking place in Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford on 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.
13. Conference entitled "The Fair Deal Scheme" taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.
14. GeoparkLIFE Conference entitled "Tourism for Conservation" taking place in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017.
15. Conference entitled "Invasive Exotic Species of Wildlife in Irish Rivers, Canals & Lakes" taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.
16. Emergency Response Management Conference 2017 taking place in the Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

## **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.

### **AILG Training Seminar entitled "Welling for Councillors" taking place in Silver Spring Hotel, Cork on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2017.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €296.03 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P. Daly, J. Cooney, P. Murphy, P.J. Ryan, J. Breen, G. Keating, A. Norton, A. O’Callaghan, C. Colleran Molloy, M. Begley and B. Slattery attend this Conference.

**LAMA Autumn Seminar entitled “Waste Management – Better Energy” taking place in Hotel Minella, Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €490.02 including conference fee of €160.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P. Daly, P. McMahon, P.J. Ryan, G. Keating, J. Breen, P.J. Kelly, A. O’Callaghan, T. O’Brien, J. Crowe, C. Curtin, A. Norton, C. Colleran Molloy and B. Slattery attend this Conference.

**AILG Autumn Training Seminar entitled taking place in Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €564.45 including conference fee of €125.

It was agreed that Cllrs. B. Chambers, T. O’Brien, A. O’Callaghan, M. Hillery, P. McMahon, G. Keating, P. Daly, A. Norton, P.J. Kelly, P.J. Ryan, C. Colleran Molloy, M. Begley, J. Breen and R. Nagle attend this Conference.

**AILG Autumn Training Seminar entitled taking place in Kilkenny on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €324.69 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllrs. B. Chambers, T. O’Brien, A. O’Callaghan and M. Hillery attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_