

**Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the
Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on
Monday, 11th June, 2018 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. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Loretta McNamara, Staff Officer.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development.
- Ms. Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. John Corry, Administrative Officer.
- Ms. Ruth Hurley, Senior Executive Architect.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tom McNamara presided.

Vote of Sympathy

- The Fogarty family, Crusheen on the death of Michael following a tragic accident.
- The Kenneally family, Ennis on the death of Jack following a tragic drowning accident.
- The Moloney family, Ennis on the death of Shay following a tragic drowning accident.

The emergency services were thanked for their efforts at both incidents.

Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. B. Chambers
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the May Meeting of Clare County Council held on 14th May, 2018 be adopted and signed.”

Item 2: Matters Arising.

In relation to the vote of sympathy for Bridget Conlon, Cllr. P.J. Ryan clarified that at the time of her death she resided at Sixmilebridge.

Cllr. G. Flynn requested an update in relation to the provision of a workshop session for elected members on Data Protection. The Chief Executive advised that it is intended to provide a workshop for members and clarification was still awaited from the Department and the Office of the Data Commissioner. Cllr. G. Flynn then requested that the elected members be provided with the same workshop that was provided to officials. This was agreed.

Cllr. J. Breen raised an issue with regard to Notice of Motion No. 25 and maintained that the visit to Ailwee Cave was already agreed by resolution of the Council and therefore should proceed. The Cathaoirleach confirmed Notice of Motion No. 25 of the May meeting was a motion to implement a previous motion and was defeated by vote and sought clarification as to which notice of motion was at issue. Cllr. J. Breen requested legal advice as to what is required to overturn a decision of the Council.

Item 3: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. B. Slattery
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting held on the 20th March, 2018 be noted.”

b. Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on the 20th March, 2018 be noted.”

c. Ar moladh Cllr. M. Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Burke agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on the 21st March, 2018 be noted.”

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

a. Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Breen agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Physical Development S.P.C. meeting held on 26th February, 2018 be noted”.

Item 5: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 4th May, 2018 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.

Reference was made to water outages in the Miltown Malbay area and while the work of the Council’s Engineers on the ground was commended the related issues need to be resolved. While it was noted that the consultants have been appointed in relation to the water treatment plant the question was asked as to when work would commence. Ms. C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development advised that she would follow up on this. Cllr. B. Slattery referred to the appointment in late 2015 of consultants to prepare a master plan for Doolin Visitor Centre and wished to know when it would be completed. Cllr. G. Flynn wished to know when work would commence on the Shannon Airport Access Road and where funding would be coming from. Also, when would the consultant’s report be completed in relation to Shannon Embankments. Cllr. C. Crowe referred to a meeting he had attended in relation to the Limerick Northern Distributor Road, the Taking in Charge of Estates and recent meeting held in UL in relation to the Atlantic Economic Corridor.

The Chief Executive responded to the issues raised. In relation to the Atlantic Economic Corridor he advised that Ennis as well as Sligo has been selected as a pilot. The Shannon Airport Access Road is at Capital Design stage and a briefing will be held with the members of Shannon Municipal District. The Cathaoirleach noted Cllr. B. Slattery’s concerns in relation to the Doolin Master Plan. He has asked the consultants to meet with the West Clare Municipal District members and hoped that this meeting would take place before the end of the month.

Item 7: Irish Language Grants Scheme 2018 – Grant recommendations.

Report from Ann Reynolds, A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda. The applications were assessed by a Committee consisting of the Chair of the Strategic Policy Committee, the County Librarian and the Meetings Administrator.

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

“Pursuant to Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001 Clare County Council approves the payment of the following grants for organisations hosting an event which would in the opinion of the Council stimulate public interest in the Irish Language, provide a knowledge, appreciation and practice of the language or improve the standard of the language.

Noel O’Donoghue	€400
Eoin O Ceallaigh	€500
Féile na hInse	€500
Cnoc Na Gaoithe Cultural Centre	€500
Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan, Inis	€500
Grúpa Oidhreachta Cultúra Duibhlínn	€500
Sonya O’Donoghue	€500
Cumann Luthleas Gael an Chláir	€400
Connie Hannon “Teach Abhaile”	€500
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Inis	€400
Oidhrecht an Chláir	€800
Radio Corca Baiscinn	€500
Scoil Geihmridh Merriman 2018	€600
Frances O’Halloran	€400
Coiste Forbartha Gaeltachta an Chláir, Cill Mhicil	€800
Gaelscoil Mhichíl Ciosóg	€300
Michael McCaughon	€200
Craobh Conradh Na Gaeilge Cill Chaoi	€200
Ragairne Club Gaelach	€200
Inis Cathaigh Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann	€200

Item 8: 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 2001-2013 for the proposed provision of 51 No. residential units at Bóthar na Luchra, Tullyvarraga, Shannon, Co. Clare.

Report dated 5th June, 2018 from Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda together with report from A/Senior Executive Planner. The report states that it is proposed to carry out development which will consist of 51 residential units at Bóthar na Luchra, Tullyvarraga, Shannon, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. McKee 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 development of 51 No. residential units at Bóthar na Luchra, Tullyvarraga, Shannon, Co. Clare.”

Item 9. CLÁR Programme 2018.

Report dated 31st May, 2018 from Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda. The report states that CLÁR is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas which have suffered the greatest levels of population decline. A fund of €4 million for 2018 has been announced which will provide financial support under the following measures:

- Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures
- Measure 2: Play Areas (including MUGAs)

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

Number of Eligible Applications Received for 2018

Measure 1 Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures: 35 applications received (24 West Clare Municipal District, 1 Ennis Municipal District and 10 in Killaloe Municipal District)

Measure 2 Play Areas including MUGAs: 28 applications received (19 West Clare Municipal District, 8 Killaloe Municipal District and 1 in Ennis Municipal District)

The members of the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland considered all applications at their meeting which took place on the 25th April 2018. All projects were evaluated using the above selection criteria and the top 15 projects prioritised for submission to the Department.

Item 10. Presentation by Ollie O’Connor, Chief Executive Officer, Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Ollie O’Connor was accompanied by Mr. Colm Cambell, Chairman of the Board and Messrs. Gerry Enright, John Cantillon and Denis Carroll from the Patrick Sarsfield Branch (Limerick). During his presentation he outlined how the organization was founded, its original goals and its evolution over the last thirty years. The company mission is “*The welfare of ex-service personnel, by way of providing accommodation to homeless, elderly or disabled ex-service personnel in need of such domestic accommodation and shelter and any other assistance required.*” Their

ancillary objectives are comradeship, social and cultural activities and remembrance. Mr. O'Connor went through the organisations strategic goals and advised that it costs approximately €838,000 per annum to provide the current services. Approximately €600,000 of which must be raised through members subscriptions, donations, residents and collections. The Fuchsia Appeal was launched in 2009 as a campaign to support veterans in need. They are also looking at corporate sponsorship. He also outlined where the various veteran's support centers (V.S.C.s) were around the country and the benefits they provide. It is hoped to have 13 open by the end of 2018 with additional V.S.C.s opening in 2019/2020.

Following the presentation the elected members praised the work being carried out by Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan that the flag of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann would be flown at Áras Contae an Chláir for the month of July.

Upon the request of Cllr. A. Norton Item No. 21 was brought forward.

Item 21. Organ transplantations.

Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“The following motion is respectfully sought of Clare County Council

1) This Council calls on the Irish government to ratify, as soon as possible, the convention against trafficking in human organs which was adopted by the Council of Europe on 9 July 2014 in order to criminalise illegal organ transplantations. The Irish Government has already signed this convention, but is yet to ratify it.”

Item 11. Wild Atlantic Way.

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

“Due to the huge impact the Wild Atlantic Way has in County Clare, and the world wide attention the Irish Open Golf will bring to the county, I propose that the elected members tour the route to see it first hand and to enable interaction with communities on the route and examine possible new extensions of the route.”

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:

“The success of the Wild Atlantic Way is making a huge contribution to tourism in County Clare. This will be further enhanced by the recent announcement by Fáilte Ireland of the new Hidden Heartlands brand benefiting East Clare and Lough Derg. Clare County Council will shortly invite tenders with expert international tourism experience to tender for the development of a new Clare Tourism Strategy.

A field visit to the Wild Atlantic Way would be very beneficial. The Tourism Unit of Clare County Council will arrange this shortly.”

The Elected Members expressed their delight at the staging of the Irish Open Golf at Lahinch Golf Club and the benefits for the county as a whole and that a price could not be put on the publicity it would generate. The hope was expressed that many of the foreign visitors to this event would enter the country via Shannon Airport and that this event will enhance the development of the Wild Atlantic Way. It was agreed that every effort must be made to ensure that this event is a success.

The Cathaoirleach thanked everyone for their support and positivity, including the media, towards this major event. He acknowledged that there were issues to be overcome and advised that a meeting had taken place between Senior Team and Lahinch Golf Club last Friday and he will keep the elected members informed on developments. Mr. L. Cleary confirmed that they would shortly be going to tender for the development of a new Clare Tourism Strategy and that Ms. J. Tarmey had today taken up her role as Tourism Officer. He also confirmed that he would organize a road trip for the elected members.

Item 12. Major Annual Festival.

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

“That Clare County Council appraise and cost the possibility of hosting a major annual festival along the lines of Limerick's Riverfest, Galway's Arts Festival and Kilkenny's Cat Laughs Comedy Festival.”

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:

“The Tourism Unit of the Rural Development Directorate will work on a cross-directorate basis with the Arts Office, Social Development Directorate to research this proposal and to consider any funding opportunities available.”

The Elected Members referred to the economic boost that the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann brought to the county over the last two years and outlined the benefits of hosting an annual festival. It was suggested that perhaps Mr. M. Dunphy, Communications Officer could seek ideas from the general public.

Item 13. Shannon Estuary Way.

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

“Further to my motion of November 2015 and subsequent launch in June 2017 of the Shannon Estuary Way, that Clare County Council provide a progress report on the project given that signage and other key infrastructure was promised to be in place for the 2018 Summer Season.”

Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development Directorate replied as follows:

“The Shannon Estuary Way proposition forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way brand and aims to promote a spectacular driving route along the estuary.

The project is being led by Fáilte Ireland and supported by the local authorities including Clare County Council. The project elements include the erection of directional signage, some remedial works and the installation of interpretative stone panels at six locations in Clare. These locations are Knock Pier, Labasheeda Pier, Crovraghan Pier, Clarecastle Quay, Kildysart and Tullyglass Point, Shannon. A signage manufacturer will be appointed by Failte Ireland during the summer with the project scheduled for completion by the end of the year. Clare County Council will be responsible for the installation works.”

Cllr. G. Keating thanked Ms. M. Meehan, Senior Executive Officer for her reply but expressed disappointment with the “end of the year” completion date. Cllr. P. Murphy referred to his 2015 Notice of Motion in which he had proposed a different route. Cllr. J. Flynn advised that when Fáilte Ireland went to tender on this there were seven counties involved and he felt that each county should have a loop that would take a day or two to complete. He felt that T.I.I. should erect signs on the motorway advertising the route.

Mr. L. Cleary, Director of Rural Development advised that they would work with Fáilte Ireland to bring forward the completion date. He advised that currently an engineer is working with Fáilte Ireland and he has also asked the new Tourism Officer to liaise with Fáilte Ireland.

Item 14. Speed limits.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Hillery
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus glacadh leis

“That management of Clare County Council would inform the councillors as to when the review of the county's speed limits will be on the agenda for ratification?”

John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department replied as follows:

“As agreed at the April meeting of the Council further meetings will be held with the Elected Members of each Municipal District in advance of bringing the Draft Speed Limit Bye Laws 2018 to the Full Council for consideration. It is expected that the Draft Bye Laws will be considered at the October meeting.”

Cllr. M. Hillery advised that this was a serious matter and while acknowledging that Mr. J. Leahy, Senior Engineer had only recently taken up this position this needed to be dealt with urgently. He wished to thank the members of the public who had provided him with maps. Cllr. P. Burke asked would it be possible to implement the speed limits for East Clare as the Killaloe Municipal District had not issues with them.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the frustration felt by the Elected Members and advised that they would be meeting again with the T.I.I. The aim is to bring a final solution before the members that can be agreed.

Item 15. Gardening Section.

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

“That in view of the tremendous work done by the Gardening Section of Clare County Council that has helped in bringing national recognition to the capital town of Ennis, that Clare County Council apply additional resources to this section to enable much needed support and assistance to the other districts throughout the county that are currently struggling to maintain the green infrastructure and also reflects badly on Clare as a tourist destination.”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Service and Leonard Cleary, Director of Service replied as follows:

“Clare County Council’s Gardening Section has been instrumental in enhancing the appearance of Clare’s Towns and Villages and their environs as well as assisting community groups with great success at both national and international awards and competitions such as ‘Entente Florale’ and Tidy Towns. The section had a significant part to play in the success of the ‘Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann’ which was held in Ennis in 2016 and 2017. In addition to enhancing our county town, the Gardening section assist with landscaping projects around the county as requested. A recent example of this was the planting of 109 mature trees and 2,000 saplings at Sli na Mara (The Boreen), Improvement Works, Shannon for Clare County Council Planning Department. The Council also provides funding each year for external contractors and community groups to assist with the maintenance of green areas in Towns and Villages throughout the county.

While it is not possible to develop a gardening presence in every town and village Clare County Council’s Head Gardener is always available to advise Tidy Towns Committees and local groups around the county and continues to do so on a regular basis. Consideration can be given to this Notice of Motion to provide additional resources as part of the 2019 budgetary process.

Tourists to the county have remarked on the exceptional high quality of floral display in Ennis town. This greatly accentuates the presentation of the narrow streets. Also this is a key aspect of Ennis’ success in the Ennis Tidy Towns competition. Various community groups and tidy towns groups have approached the Rural Development Directorate to identify additional financial resources to provide gardening support services to rural towns and villages across the four Municipal Districts. This is in the context of the directorates’ support of tourism, town and village renewal and tidy towns/community functions. The gardening service does provide some advice and guidance to groups based on available resources.

On a cross-directorate basis, the Rural Development and Physical Development Directorate will work together to research such a proposal, and the funding of such, for other districts throughout the county. The former engages in community development processes with local voluntary groups involved in local amenity /tidy towns projects and the latter manages the gardening services.”

Cllr. G. Flynn commented that Clare County Council did not get any additional funding when they took over responsibility for the second largest town in Clare. He would like to see funding enhanced so that more areas within the county could benefit

from the services of the Gardening Section. Elected members spoke about the work carried out by the Gardening Section and the grants provided by Clare County Council. A number of Ennis Municipal District elected members while supporting the notice of motion did not want it to be to diminish the service being provided to Ennis Town. The efforts of the Tidy Towns organisations throughout the county were praised but some needed assistance in relation to manpower for grass cutting etc. and if the Gardening Section could not assist perhaps the grants could be increased. It was also suggested that perhaps the expertise of the Gardening Section could be brought to area office level.

Mr. L. Cleary, Director of Rural Development confirmed that he had discussed these issues with Ms. C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development and they were looking at putting a programme together and to see where additional funding could be achieved. He also acknowledged the work done by Community and CE Schemes. Ms. C. Kirby confirmed that the gardening services are for the whole county and she will look at what is currently being done and how it can be improved upon.

Item 16. Priority list for secondary and tertiary roads.

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

“I propose that Clare County Council immediately put in place a priority list for our secondary and tertiary roads and that a long term strategy be put in place to deal with this. Under our recently adopted road programme it is clearly evident there is a total lack of funding being spent on these roads and is now having a major effect on the quality of rural living.”

John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department replied as follows:

“In the autumn of 2018 it is the intention of the Transportation Section to put in place a three year road improvement programme to cover the years 2019, 2020 & 2021. This works programme will include proposals for improvements to local secondary and tertiary roads. The indications are that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport will request such a programme by the end of the year as this will be needed for future funding allocations.”

Cllr. P. Hayes thanked Mr. J. Leahy, Senior Engineer for this reply. While local roads are discussed at Municipal District level he felt it would be a good idea to get an overview as to what is happening throughout the county and if it was possible to have a priority listing so at least you could give people an idea as to when work would commence on their road. Cllr. P.J. Kelly felt that our Oireachtas members should be invited to a meeting to discuss our secondary and tertiary roads as it is a vital issue for rural Clare. Discussion took place in relation to the poor condition of these roads due to lack of funding and poor weather conditions.

Mr. J. Leahy, Senior Engineer in responding to the queries raised advised that the three year road improvement plan should give an indication as to when work will commence on specific roads.

The following amendment was proposed and agreed.

Proposed by Cllr. P.J. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan and agreed

“That the members of the Oireachtas for Clare be invited to address a meeting of Clare County Council on the problems of road funding.”

Item 17. Library services.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“That the County Librarian update the Council on the number of registered members and number of visits for each branch library in the county for 2017 and arising from same that the Council would consider a programme of expansion of services in each branch to further enhance their key role in the educational and social life of their communities.”

Helen Walsh, County Librarian replied as follows:

“Library Statistics 2017

Branch	Membership	Loans	Internet sessions	Visits
Corofin	271	8,319	101	5,400
Ennis	5,058	154,965	19,849	111,150
Ennistymon	1,442	54,439	3,605	34,800
HQ/Local Studies	17	2,970		4,200
Kildysart	302	10,693	230	9,450
Kilkee	1,324	33,890	3,564	24,750
Killaloe	1,117	37,245	2,549	23,950
Kilmihil	180	4,471	106	2,300
Kilrush	1,402	48,711	4,450	42,150
Lisdoonvarna	199	2,925	48	870
Miltown Malbay	686	23,143	2,002	12,650
Newmarket	391	16,479	321	11,550
Scariff	1,448	59,925	3,839	29,250
Shannon	2,712	65,501	9,661	59,150
Sixmilebridge	1,470	37,132	1,312	15,300

Tulla	633	26,438	246	8,900
E resources		10,596		
Total	18,652	549,131	51,883	395,820

Loans increased 3% on 2016, memberships decreased 5% on 2016.
Internet usage decreased 7% on 2016, Library visits were at the same level as 2016.

Corofin branch operated on reduced hours in 2017 and Lisdoonvarna branch had closures during 2017.

The library programme for the year is extensive numbering approx. 1,000 activities throughout the branch network in 2017 with similar activity planned for 2018. In addition, capacity and staff resources are directed to national initiatives on promotion of literacy (Right to Read campaign), Healthy Libraries (Hi Government of Ireland initiative), Creative Ireland (legacy programme of 1916/2016), and Work Matters (support to enterprise and job seekers). These impact most service points. In addition, the library service is about to undergo an integration with Council IT (a project of approx. 6-12 months duration) and has moved to stage 3 with the County Library Project. Staffing resources are tight with promotion of literacy activities co-ordinated by the children's librarian and various other staff members leading on the other initiatives. A new national strategy for libraries is being launched on 14th June which will also direct activities in libraries nationally over the next 5 years. The Creative Ireland commitment is particularly onerous as it ties staff resources into a programme which will not terminate until 2022. These additional national initiatives and programmes represent a significant expansion of activities which will be ongoing throughout 2018 and subsequent years."

Cllr. C. Curtin advised that the facilities provided by the libraries should be enhanced as much as possible while Cllr. C. Crowe commented that the history on-line service was one of the best in the country.

Item 18. House numbers.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. J. Crowe agus C. Colleran Molloy agus glacadh leis

"We call on Clare County Council to ensure that every house, in every estate, street, laneway, etc. should be required to display the number of the house on their property."

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner replied as follows:

"The proposal that every dwelling displays the number of the house on their property has significant and obvious merits from a postal and emergency services viewpoint. That said, in Ireland there is no provision or law in the Building, Fire or Planning legislation to require the display of house numbers on individuals' properties.

Notwithstanding the obvious merits, because it is not provided for in law consequently there is no legal provision that Clare County Council or indeed any Local Authority can ensure the display of a house number on every urban and rural house. Every property does however have an individual postcode.”

A number of elected members spoke about the benefits of having the number of the house displayed.

Mr. L. Conneally, Director of Physical Development confirmed that in the absence of national legislation it was not possible to force people to display the number of the house on their property. In the planning permission conditions we ask for name of estate and perhaps we could ask them to display house number on properties.

Item 19. Ennis Hospital Working Group.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. C. Curtin, G. Flynn, J. Breen, J. Cooney agus P.J. Kelly agus glacadh leis

“We as former members of the Ennis Hospital Action Group ask Clare County Council to support the establishment of an “Ennis Hospital Working Group” with two representatives from each Municipal District to

- (a) support our elected colleagues who represent Clare County Council in H.S.E. West, and
- (b) lobby Government and the H.S.E. for the provision of a level three hospital (or equivalent of 24 hour A&E) for Ennis and Clare particularly in light of the current population, current risk indicators, population growth as outlined in Ireland 2040 NPF, in view of the Ministers reply to Clare County Council of 3rd May, 2018.”

Discussion took place in relation to the reasons for putting forward this notice of motion, the level of service currently being provided at both Ennis and Limerick Hospitals. Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy gave a personal example of how the current system is letting the people of Clare down. Cathaoirleach outlined how he and his fellow elected members on the board of H.S.E. West have fought for a level three hospital for Ennis. He felt that if this was to be a protest group it would not work and suggested that perhaps the next Cathaoirleach should arrange for a delegation to meet with the Minister for Health. It was clarified that this was not a protest group, its purpose would be to support the members on the forum.

It was agreed to form a working group.

Item 20. Local Improvement Scheme.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly

Cuidithe ag Cllr. R. Nagle agus glacadh leis

“That the Government be requested to provide adequate finance to address the needs of the 260 applicants for road improvements under the L.I.S.”

John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department replied as follows:

“13 L.I.S. projects have been approved for funding in 2018 at a cost of €482,000. An additional application was also made to the Department of Rural and Community Development seeking funding for a further 22 L.I.S. projects at an estimated cost of €891,137. It isn’t clear at this stage when an announcement may emerge regarding additional L.I.S. funding for 2018. As outlined in a response to a notice of motion at the May meeting it was indicated that it was an onerous task to carry out an analysis of the estimated cost of works required for the remaining L.I.S. applications received. This, however will be carried out in due course and further applications submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development seeking additional funding.”

The importance of the L.I.S. Scheme to rural communities was discussed and it was hoped that additional funds would be received.

It was agreed to write to the Minister to seek additional funding.

It was agreed to take Notice of Motions 22 & 23 together.

Item 22. Referenda posters.

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

“I am requesting that this Council call on Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy to commence a consultation with a view to tightening legislation on postering during referenda and elections. The review should include such matters as the content and location of posters and also the period during which posters are displayed.”

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Item 23. Posters for local elections.

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

“I ask that the elected members of Clare County Council vote to ban the use of posters for the local elections in 2019 except at designated official locations in order to reduce the safety; visual; financial; environmental; etc negative impacts of the current uncontrolled postering as seen in the recent referendum.”

It was agreed to forward this notice of motion to the S.P.C. for Physical Development.

Item 24. Ban on trade with Israeli settlements.

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

“That Clare County Council supports the call to introduce a ban on trade with Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.”

Cllr. M. McKee outlined the reasons for putting forward this notice of motion and referred to correspondence issued by Trócaire.

It was agreed to write to Senator Frances Black.

Item 25. Social housing.

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

“That Clare County Council requests Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Social Housing and Planning to increase the maximum net income limits for social housing in Clare.”

Cllr. P.J. Ryan advised that all of Clare is in Band No. 3 (maximum salary of €30,000), he is aware of a couple with an income of €30,300 and therefore are not eligible to go on the Social Housing List. The income threshold for Limerick is €36,000.

It was agreed to write to Mr. Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Item 26. An Post Modernisation Plan.

“That this Council calls on An Post to review the An Post Modernisation Plan with regard to the closure of rural post offices in County Clare as they provide a range of essential services in rural communities. Also call on the Minister for Communications to intervene to protect rural post offices in County Clare.”

Cllr. B. Chambers agreed that this item be deferred to the July meeting.

Item 27. Licence plates for vehicles.

“I request Clare County Council to write to the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross and Minister for Justice, Charles Flanagan, requesting legislation and tighter laws be put in place around the purchase of registered licence plates for vehicles. In recent criminal events, vehicle registrations can be purchased without proof.”

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan agreed that this item be deferred to the July meeting.

Item 28. St. Joseph’s Hospital, Ennis.

“That this Council call on the Minister for Health and the H.S.E. to clarify the position in relation to Greenfield site for St. Joseph’s Hospital, Ennis. Is there a current proposal to re-allocate this hospital to a regional site in Limerick.”

Cllr. J. Breen agreed that this item be deferred to the July meeting.

Item 29. Comhfhreagras. Correspondence.

Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Correspondence dated 17th May, 2018 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to a redress scheme for homeowners with building and fire defects.
2. Correspondence dated 16th May from Pat Breen, T.D., in relation to a redress scheme for homeowners with building and fire defects.

3. Correspondence dated 1st May from Joe Carey, T.D., in relation to a redress scheme for homeowners with building and fire defects.
4. Correspondence dated 25th May, 2018 from Matthew Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Group in regarding the enhancement of Shannon Airport's hub status.
5. Correspondence dated 21st May, 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection regarding the provision of leave for workers who are taking care of elderly parents.
6. Correspondence dated 23rd May, 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to workers who are taking leave to take care of elderly parents.
7. Correspondence dated 15th May, 2018 from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the provision of leave for workers who are taking care of elderly parents.
8. Correspondence dated 10th May, 2018 from the Department of Justice and Equality in relation to illegal parking of caravans and camper vans on public and private roads.
9. Correspondence dated 10th May, 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding remuneration of people called for jury duty.
10. Correspondence dated 18th May, 2018 from the Department of Health in relation to Versatis patches.
11. Local Government Funding (Baseline) Review – Methodology for the allocation of Local Government Funding – Consultation document.
12. Resolution circulated by Waterford City and County Council in relation to the provision by the HSE of Free Style Libre to sufferers' of Type 1 Diabetes.
13. Resolution circulated by Waterford City and County Council in relation to versatis pain relief patches.
14. Resolution circulated by Waterford City and County Council in relation to the introduction of a scheme to provide all teachers and special needs assistants with Occupational First Aid training, encompassing C.P.R.
15. Resolution circulated by Waterford City and County Council in relation to lowering the eligibility age for cervical screening service.
16. Resolution circulated by South Dublin County Council in relation to expelling the Israeli Ambassador from Ireland.
17. A.I.L.G. elected members training.
18. Training seminar for local authority members entitled "Local Electoral Area Boundary Commission" taking place in the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 6th – 8th July, 2018.

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 taking place in the Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow on 17th February, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €341.71 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllr. T. McNamara attend this Conference.

AILG training taking place in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on 22nd February, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €284.55.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. Burke attend this Conference.

Conference entitled “New Affordable Houses Schemes” taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 9th – 11th March, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €682.78 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllr. T. McNamara attend this Conference.

LAMA 2018 Spring Training Seminar entitled “New National Planning Framework” taking place in the Central Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal on 6th & 7th April, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €339.91 including conference fee of €160.

It was agreed that Cllrs. T. McNamara, P. Burke and B. Slattery attend this Conference.

AILG training taking place in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford on 12th – 13th April, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €404.52.

It was agreed that Cllrs. T. McNamara and P. Burke attend this Conference.

AILG training entitled “Councillors and Community Safety” taking place in Westport, Co. Mayo on 19th May, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €305.51 including conference fee of €55.

It was agreed that Cllrs. C. Colleran Molloy, J. Breen, P. Burke and A. Norton attend this Conference.

AILG training entitled “Single Public Water Utility” taking place in Killarney, Co. Kerry on 19th June, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €305.51 including conference fee of €55.

It was agreed that Cllrs. M. Hillery, B. Chambers and A. O’Callaghan attend this Conference.

The Cathaoirleach thanked everyone for their co-operation during his term of office.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____