

Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 10th February, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

Present:

Councillors M. Howard, M. Nestor, J. Flynn, J. Cooney, M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn, S. Talty, J. Garrihy, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Colette Costello, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Siobhan McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development.
- Ms. Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development.
- Ms. Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development.
- Ms. Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.

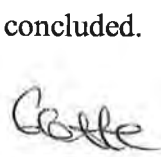

Cllr. Pat McMahon presided.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney that the Council meeting be adjourned by one week until Monday, 17th February, 2020 due to the ongoing General Election Count 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Begley, seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney that a special meeting be held to allow for the appointment of a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor following the election of Cllr. Cathal Crowe to Dáil Éireann.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Date:

Minutes of the adjourned February Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 17th February, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

Present:

Councillors M. Howard, M. Nestor, J. Flynn, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, A. Norton, P. Daly, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, T. O’Brien, J. Crowe, M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn, D. McGettigan, S. Talty, J. Killeen, J. Garrihy, R. Garvey, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating, C. Murphy, I. Lynch.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O’Rourke, Assistant 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.
- Ms. Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Ms. Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development.

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy presided.

Vote of Sympathy.

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The Cullinan family, Newmarket on Fergus on the death of Jim Cullinan.
- The Nestor family, Ennis on the death of Carmel Nestor.
- The Liddy family, Newmarket on Fergus on the death of Michael Liddy.

Clare Council of the Year at LAMA Awards 2020

At the outset Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy informed the members that Clare County Council was named “Council of the Year” at the LAMA Awards 2020 held in the Croke Park Hotel, Dublin at the weekend.

Clare County Council also won three first place awards on the night for:

- Best Educational Building for the New Third Level Campus for Limerick institute of Technology in Ennis, County Clare in collaboration with LIT,
- Best Social Housing Initiative for Feakle Social Housing Scheme and
- Emergency Response Person of the Year with Clare's Civil Defence - Volunteers supporting the Community.

Other Clare projects recognised on the night were:

- Clare Green Festival and Events Initiative in the Best Waste Management Programme category and
- The Vision Symphony in the Best Arts/Culture (incl. festivals & events) category both receiving 2nd place awards.

The elected members extended congratulations on winning this award and acknowledged the hard work being done by each and every member of staff in order to achieve this honour. A concern was raised regarding officials attending awards events.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that this is awarded by the elected members across the country and is an endorsement of the efforts being made to promote the work of the county. Mr. Dowling stated that this reinforces Clare County Councils previous success in being named Local Authority of the Year 2018 - Chambers Ireland – Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Coleran Molloy referred to Standing Order No. 64 and sought approval for photography during the meeting. The members confirmed approval.

Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.

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

“That the Minutes of the January Meeting of Clare County Council held on 13th January, 2020 be adopted and signed.”

Item 2: Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

Item 3: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Howard agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 10th December, 2019 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on the 6th November, 2019 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on the 19th November, 2019 be noted.”

d. Ar moladh Cllr. C. Murphy
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Garrihy agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Budget Meeting held on the 4th November, 2019 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting held on the 14th November, 2019 be noted.”

Item 4: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 6th January, 2020 as presented.

Item 5: 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.

Cllr. J. Flynn queried the figures provided in relation to emergency accommodation. Cllr. Flynn also expressed concern in relation to air quality in Ennis and welcomed progress on Shanaway Road junction.

Cllr. C. Murphy requested a copy of WWTP laboratory reports currently being sent to Irish Water. Cllr. Murphy stated that community participation will be critical in progressing the site location and route selection for Kilkee Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. Cllr. Murphy welcomed proposed upgrading of the Kilkee lifeguard and changing huts.

Cllr. G. Flynn requested that the upcoming housing workshops be advertised by Clare County Council.

Cllr. I. Lynch raised the ongoing issue of water quality in Kildysart and requested a balance in the provision of basic services across the county.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that the Council has to operate with the resources available and that each Director of Service and newly appointed Municipal District Senior Executive Officers will work together to ensure there is an element of equality and distribution of resources going forward.

A. Haugh, Director of Social Development responded to queries raised by Cllr. J. Flynn concerning emergency accommodation.

C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development undertook to revert to Cllr. C. Murphy and Cllr. I. Lynch in relation to the issues raised.

Item 6: Co-option to fill vacancy on Clare County Council.

Report dated 31st January, 2020 from Ann Reynolds, A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda. The report states that it is proposed to fill the casual vacancy on the Council arising from the passing of our esteemed colleague, Cllr. Mike McKee (R.I.P.). The vacancy will be filled in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, i.e. the person to be nominated by the same registered political party who nominated for election the member who caused the casual vacancy.

Correspondence has been received from the Sinn Féin party nominating Donna McGettigan, 17 Purcell Park, Shannon, Co. Clare for co-option to Clare County Council. Donna has provided her written consent to this co-option.

By virtue of her proposed co-option to the Council, Donna McGettigan will also fill the vacant Councillor positions on the following:

- Shannon Municipal District Committee
- Social Development Strategic Policy Committee and
- Local Traveller Accommodation Advisory Committee.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“That Donna McGettigan, 17 Purcell Park, Shannon, Co. Clare be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy in

- the Shannon Municipal District,
- the Local Traveller Accommodation Advisory Committee,
- the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.”

The elected members supported this proposal and welcomed Donna McGettigan to Clare County Council. The late Mike McKee was remembered by the elected members at this time.

Cllr. Donna McGettigan addressed the meeting and thanked the members for their warm welcome. She noted the respect the late Mike McKee held in the Council Chamber and said she will work with everybody for the sake of our communities.

Item 7: Fix date for April Council Meeting.

It was agreed that the April Council meeting will take place on Monday, 6th April, 2020 having been proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes.

Item 8: Disposal of lands at Fortane, Tulla, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 20th January, 2020 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Property Management Unit was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of an area of lands measuring 0.24 hectares at Fortane, Tulla, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 20th January, 2019.

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

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, of disposal of lands at Fortane, Tulla, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 20th January, 2020.”

Item 9: Disposal of lands at Cluain Airne, Shannon, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 24th January, 2020 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Property Management Unit was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of an area of lands measuring 0.0128 hectares at Cluain Airne, Shannon, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 24th January, 2019.

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

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, of disposal of lands at Cluain Airne, Shannon, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 24th January, 2020.”

Item 10: Disposal of lands at Deilginish, Shannon, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 24th January, 2020 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Property Management Unit was circulated with the agenda. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of an area of lands measuring 8.68 square meters at Deilginish, Shannon, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 24th January, 2019.

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

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, of disposal of lands at Deilginish, Shannon, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 24th January, 2020.”

Item 11: Clare County Council Audit Committee Annual Report 2019.

The 2019 Audit Committee Annual Report was circulated with the agenda. The report states that Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014 requires that the Audit Committee report to the Council at least annually.

The report outlines details of the Audit Committee under the following headings:

- Functions of the Audit Committee
- Membership of the Committee
- Role and Responsibility of Internal Audit
- Detailed Matters Considered in 2019.

The members noted this item as presented having been proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. S. Talty.

Item 12: Statutory Audit Report to the members of Clare County Council for the year ended 31st December, 2018.

The Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Clare County Council on the Accounts of Clare County Council for year ended 31st December, 2018 was circulated with the agenda.

The report included the Chief Executive's responses to all comments raised by the Auditor. The report as presented was noted by the members present having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. G. Flynn.

Item 13: Report from Audit Committee on Statutory Audit Report for year ended 31st December, 2018.

Report from Austin Slattery, Chairman of the Clare Audit Committee was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Audit Committee held its meeting on 25th November, 2019 to review the Statutory Audit Report for year ending 31st December, 2018.

The members noted the report as presented having been proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. G. Flynn.

Item 14: Clare County Council Local Government Audit Committee Charter 2019 – 2024.

Clare County Council Local Government Audit Committee Charter 2019 – 2024 was circulated with the agenda.

The members noted this item as presented having been proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. I. Lynch.

Cllr. P. Hayes thanked the management and staff of the Council and acknowledged their ongoing commitment and co-operation with the Audit Committee.

Item 15: Community Support Scheme 2020.

Report dated 4th February, 2020 from Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the members of the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland considered the grant recommendations under each category of the Community Supports Scheme 2020.

The scheme categories are:

1. Public area and amenity enhancement
2. Town/village paint works
3. Community development, social inclusion and participation in sport/physical activity
4. Community playgrounds
5. Burial ground maintenance and provision
6. Community wifi
7. Best kept local authority estate
8. The arts
9. Irish language
10. Christmas lighting
11. Tourism marketing and promotion
12. Sustainable tourism.

The grant recommendations were approved having been proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor.

Disappointment was expressed by some members at the level of funding awarded under the Irish language category. The elected members noted that the Community Support Scheme encourages community groups to continue to develop and grow and keeps villages in good condition. Compliments were paid to the Rural Development Officers and the Rural Development Directorate who work hard on this scheme.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that this scheme is assessed on the basis of applications received and funding is allocated in the best way possible.

Item 16: Cliffs of Moher briefing – Geraldine Enright & Bobby Kerr.

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy introduced and welcomed Bobby Kerr, Chairman and Geraldine Enright, Company Secretary and Director of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience to the meeting. Bobby Kerr addressed the meeting and listed the other representatives on the Board. He stated that the Cliffs of Moher is a huge international asset and is the most visited attraction in the country. Mr. Kerr stated that the Board of the Cliffs of Moher want to develop sustainably both economically and environmentally, want to invest in the right infrastructure and manage the visitor experience. Mr. Kerr concluded by saying that the Board are working on balancing the longer term strategy with the day to day operational needs of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience.

Geraldine Enright then addressed the meeting and provided a visitor nationality data. She referred to the key points of the Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040 which include

- Demand exceeds the current infrastructure capacity
- Strategy will inform future plans for the site
- Look at international comparison and best practice
- Key pieces of infrastructure are required to met current demand

Ms. Enright outlined the Boards vision for 2020 and beyond which include:

- Major capital investment programme
- Environmentally sustainable and economically sustainable
- Community/outreach and conservation
- Growth absorption – redistribution of visitors
- Accessibility and mobility
- Visitor experience – value add
- IT and systems integration
- Wider remit – promote county Clare
- Investment in human resources
- Work with Clare County Council Tourism Unit

The elected members thanked Mr. Kerr and Ms. Enright for their presentation and outlined concerns in relation to the need to see a spin off to support and connect with local communities and environmental sustainability. The need to showcase accessibility was also noted.

Item 17: Shannon Group briefing - Mary Considine.

The Leas Cathaoirleach welcomed Mary Considine, Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Group to the meeting. Ms. Considine addressed the meeting and outlined some of Shannon Groups 2019 highlights.

Ms. Considine stated that Shannon Group finished 2019 on a positive note with the announcement of three new services for Shannon and expansion on some of their existing services. She informed the members that Shannon Group have appointed a new Head of Marketing and Brand for Shannon Group who is working closely with their route development and marketing teams to roll out a refresh of their company brand.

Ms. Considine informed the meeting that Shannon Group are calling on the incoming Government to increase funding to help airlines to develop vital connectivity which supports business and tourism here in Clare and in the regions. She continued that more funds are needed particularly to further develop air services to EU hubs. This was recognized in Copenhagen Economics report, which was commissioned by Limerick Chamber and supported by Shannon, Ennis and Galway Chambers. Ms. Considine stated that the Government need to allow Shannon Airport access to funds from the Regional Airports Programme. Under current Government policy only private airports are eligible to apply for these funds.

Ms. Considine outlined the strategic priorities to drive performance in Shannon Groups Strategic Plan 2019-2023 and stated that Shannon Group are delighted, through Shannon Heritage, to be partnering with the Council on the new ten-year Tourism Strategy for Clare.

The elected members thanked Mary Considine for her presentation and congratulated her on being appointed Chief Executive Officer of Shannon Group. The new and additional routes were welcomed by the members present. The members expressed concern in relation to lack of connectivity and they noted that government support is needed to ensure the viability of Shannon Airport. The elected members fully supported the request that the Government support the Copenhagen Report. The Special Assistance Programme now available in Shannon Airport was complimented. It was requested that voluntary services be invited to participate in emergency services response water drills in Shannon. Many members expressed disappointment that Clare County Council is not represented on the Board of Shannon Group.

Mary Considine, Chief Executive Officer again addressed the meeting and thanked the elected members for their feedback. She stated that Shannon Board will work on improving connectivity and are working with stakeholders in this regard. Ms. Considine informed the meeting that Shannon Group can deliver services but they need to be profitable and encouraged local people and businesses to use Shannon Airport.

Item 18. Presentation on Climate Change.

Ar moladh Cllr. R. Garvey
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“I wish to propose that Clare County Council host a presentation and visit by renowned Professor and number one expert in Ireland on Climate Change from an Irish Geography perspective, Prof. John Sweeney of Maynooth University. He has confirmed he can present at the March monthly meeting on climate change from a Clare perspective looking at it geographically both inland and coastally etc.”

Item 19. Off peak beach rescue for Lahinch.

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

“That Clare County Council enter dialogue with the voluntary emergency service to seek the establishment of a local off peak beach rescue for Lahinch to complement the existing lifeguards seasonally life guard cover.”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“Water Safety Ireland is the Statutory Body established by the Minister under Statutory Instrument 56 of 2019 (Water Safety Ireland (Establishment) Order 2019) to provide the following services in the area of water safety;

- (a) the promotion of public awareness of water safety;
- (b) the promotion of measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents in water;
- (c) the provision of instruction in water safety, rescue, swimming, resuscitation and recovery drills;
- (d) the promotion of efficiency of the service provided by lifeguards, including enhancing the standard of lifesaving through the promotion and development of lifesaving to international standards;
- (e) the establishment of, and provision of training in, national standards for lifeguards, lifesaving and water safety;
- (f) the provision of instruction, training, assessment and certification in aquatic rescue for boat crews of independent voluntary community organisations for the time being known as the “Community Rescue Boats Service” and other organisations involved in aquatic rescue.

Water safety in Clare is administered by the Clare Water Safety Area Committee under the auspices of Water Safety Ireland. The Water Safety Development Officer for Clare County Council is a member of that committee.

Lahinch currently has a voluntary rescue service (Lahinch Surf Rescue) whose volunteers are members of Clare Water Safety and all are trained as beach lifeguards by Clare Water Safety. Lahinch Surf Rescue / Clare Water Safety provide an all year round voluntary service on Lahinch beach in addition to the beach lifeguards provided by Clare County Council during the bathing season.

Clare County Council are fully supportive of the organisation and have provided annual financial assistance as well as storage space. In addition we are also working

with Clare Water Safety to provide a site for a new purpose built facility for training and storage of rescue equipment.

It is hoped that project can commence along with the upgrade of Lahinch Seaworld in the coming months.”

Cllr. I. Lynch stated that Lahinch Surf Rescue are not linked to the 999 service and are not recognised as an emergency service. C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development stated that the Irish Coastguard immobilise the rescue services and have the contact details for the volunteer services.

Item 20. Public lighting.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Murphy

“What percentage of the public lighting under the charge of Clare County Council has been upgraded to Light Emitting Diode (LED) and what is the projected timeframe for full conversion to use of same?”

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

“Clare County Council currently have 14,265 public lights in their charge, and of this total 3,941 have been changed to LED’s. This equates to 27.6% of public lights which have now been converted to LED’s.

Clare County Council has confirmed its participation and has signed up to be included in Region 1 of the Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project, subject to Council approval. The current programme indicates that the project will commence in 2020 and it is anticipated that public lights will be changed to LED in the county within a 2 year period.”

Item 21. Roads programme 2020.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Cooney
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Begley agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council given the increase in the Roads Budget include more minor and local roads in the programme for 2020 as some of these roads are in bad disrepair and have not been upgraded in over 20 years.”

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

“Following the recent announcements of road grant funding we are presently preparing the Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) for 2020. When allocations to each Municipal District are being distributed we will refer to the current 3 year non national roads programme and priorities from areas will be taken into account. Consideration will be given at that point to the relative distribution of grant funding between Regional & Local Primary, Secondary and Tertiary roads. The DTTaS grant allocation carries with it, conditions which include, that roads with higher traffic volumes and regional roads are prioritised. Notwithstanding this if there is a road with a lower volume that is of concern in a particular area then as part of the preparation of the SMDW we invited the elected members to highlight roads and footpaths for consideration.

Preparation of the SMDW is a balance between the following:

- 1) Road condition assessment/survey
- 2) Even geographical spread
- 3) Status of road
- 4) Volume of traffic
- 5) Local needs

Local needs will be taken into account within the funding allocation available.”

The elected members supported this motion and stated that extra funding needs to be used to maintain local and minor roads.

Item 22. Road signs.

It was agreed to defer this item to the adjourned meeting.

Item 23. Collection system for plastics.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Garrihy

Cuidithe ag Cllr. R. Garvey agus glacadh leis

“In light of the catastrophic consequences of single use and other plastics on our waterways I propose that we in Clare County Council put in place county wide controlled collection system for plastics located at key waterways and strategic locations around the coast and inland waterways such as Kilkee, Spanish Point, Lahinch, Doolin, Fanore, Ballyvaughan and New Quay on the coast to be determined and along the Shannon on the east of the county. Alongside the collection points we should also establish a direct linkage with the community groups of the area and the vision of Take 3 for the Sea involving and facilitating the entire community to participate and be involved in the initiative.”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“The “Take 3 for the Sea” campaign is now a globally recognised initiative to reduce plastic in not only the marine environment but in all parts of the environment. The campaign ethos is that members of the public bring 3 pieces of plastic home with them when they visit the beach, park etc and recycle or dispose appropriately of the 3 items.

Clare County Council currently support communities in a number of ways with regard to disposing of or recycling plastic collected in the environment. We have a network of 50 bring bank stations situated around the county as well as 5 Civic Amenity Sites which cater for a broad range of plastic and other recyclable materials. In addition during the bathing season our blue flag beaches also have recycling facilities provided to cater for the increased demand generated by tourist visitors. These temporary additional facilities allow visitors to dispose of their recyclable materials at the beach.

We also actively work with “An Taisce” during the National Annual Spring Clean held each April. We provide assistance to communities groups (Tidy Towns), individuals and schools with free passes to our amenity sites to dispose of the

materials collected around the county. This community engagement and co-operation has worked very well for many years.

While we have no immediate plans to introduce a collection type service due to the significant investment we already have in recycling facilities, we are planning to enhance our beach committees and we will discuss this issue further in that forum.”

Cllr. J. Garrihy submitted an amended motion which was read out by Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.

“In light of catastrophic consequences of single use plastics on our waterways and oceans, I propose that we in Clare County Council put in place two pilot programs to facilitate the collection of plastics at strategic locations to be selected along our atlantic coast and at our inland waterways. Alongside the collection points, it will be critical to establish a direct linkage with the community groups of the area and the vision of Take 3 for the Sea, involving facilitating and resourcing the entire community to participate and be at the frontline of the initiative.”

This was seconded by Cllr. R. Garvey and agreed by the members present. The elected members complimented community groups on the work already being carried out in relation to plastic reduction.

C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development stated that we need to work collectively to reduce the amount of plastic being used. Ms. Kirby was cognisant of the huge effort being made by community groups in promoting the “Take 3 for the sea” initiative and acknowledged that continued engagement with community groups is the best approach.

Item 24. Mains Rehabilitation Programme 2020.

Ar moladh Cllr. S. Talty

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. A. O’Callaghan agus J. Killeen agus glacadh leis

"Mains Rehabilitation Programme 2020 - Can we be advised of the list of priority projects for 2020?

In particular, is funding now allocated for Mullagh - Miltown Malbay & Castlecrine - Kilmurry schemes to commence in Q1 2020, as previously indicated in monthly management reports of December and January."

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“We have forwarded the notice of motion to Irish Water and they have replied as follows:

Irish Water is focused on improving service and reducing leaks across Ireland by fixing or replacing old, damaged water pipes and removing lead pipes on the public network. This is a significant undertaking with the current resources and budget available and we are using a risk-based approach to planning this work.

Under the National Leakage Reduction Programme, Irish Water is investing over €500 million between 2017 and 2021 to reduce the high level of leakage across the country. We are prioritising works that will deliver the biggest water savings to the largest amount of people.

As part of this programme, an initial phase of the Castlecrine to Kilmurray scheme, comprising approximately 2.5km of water mains replacement, is due to commence construction shortly.

Phase 1 of the Mullagh-Milltown scheme is complete. Phase 2 (construction) is estimated to commence in either late Q4 2020 or Q1 2021 subject to the available budget. This will be further reviewed later in the year.”

The elected members outlined the seriousness of the situation in relation to the Mullagh Milltown scheme and expressed disappointment that there is no commitment from Irish Water to commence works on this scheme. It was stated that this scheme needs to be prioritised.

C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development stated that the Council will request Irish Water to confirm timeframes for the delivery of projects and that the monthly management reports are accurate at the time of print.

Item 25. Address accessibility.

Due to the election of Cathal Crowe to Dáil Éireann this item was not dealt with.

Item 26. Visual impact in planning process.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly

“That Clare County Council, acknowledging the legal right of those who participate in the planning process, to fully comprehend the administrative system of same, provides the following information in the determination of visual impact of proposed structures on the different landscape designations within the county and the evaluation sequence of same by explaining:

- (i) Number and detail of technical considerations in the assessment of visual impact
- (ii) Number and detail of non-technical evaluations in the determination of visual impact
- (iii) Number and nature of other considerations combined with the above which lead to an informed and comprehensible conclusion of decision made.”

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner replied as follows:

“The planning assessment (including all technical considerations) is unique to each individual site.

As each site and application has specific characteristics and issues, each application is assessed on its individual merits on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the range of Government Guidelines and the policies and objectives of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023. As such a specific methodology for the number and detail of technical and non-technical considerations for the wide range of development types e.g. rural houses, commercial, agricultural, received by Clare County Council across the variety of landscapes in County Clare is neither practical nor possible under this notice of motion. As indicated previously all of the considerations of each planning file are set out and outlined on the planning report associated with each file.

Chapter 13 – Landscape and Chapter 17 – Design and Built Environment of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 set out the considerations in relation to the visual assessment of all applications. Moreover, to assist rural house applicants for example, the Planning Authority has prepared guidance in the form of the Clare Rural House Design Guide. This sets out in detail, the criteria to be used in selecting the most appropriate site location while also providing information on appropriate house types for rural areas.

In this regard the Planning Authority will continue to provide pre-planning advice for all applicants where any potential siting and design issues – amongst other issues - can be addressed at an early stage.”

Cllr. P.J. Kelly stated that he was disappointed with the reply received and requested a listing of the technical considerations listed in the notice of motion.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive undertook to review the reply.

Item 27. Repair of buildings.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Killeen
Cuidithe ag Cllr. agus glacadh leis

“We call on Clare County Council to use its considerable resources to ensure that unoccupied buildings and buildings in our towns and villages that are in NAMA are kept in good repair”

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:

“The enhancement and growth of our towns and villages is supported by the Council in many ways and across all Directorates of the Council. These supports include the provision of advice, guidance and funding to Tidy Towns groups, Town Teams and community and voluntary groups.

The strengthening of the Municipal District structure is intended to have a positive impact on local areas by ensuring that supports and services are delivered to where they are most needed. This new approach should result in an improved surveillance and monitoring of buildings that are at a greater risk of falling into disrepair. This new direction should also result in a greater emphasis being placed on and a resourcing of the derelict sites function within the Council.”

The elected members supported this motion and stated that unoccupied buildings detract from the amenity of our towns and villages. The members felt that additional resources and financial incentives are required to assist property owners maintain these buildings.

Special Meeting.

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy informed the members that a special meeting will take place on Monday, 24th February at 3:45 p.m. This meeting will agree the co-option to fill vacancy on Clare County Council arising from the election of Cathal Crowe to Dáil Éireann. This will be followed by the adjourned meeting to deal with the remaining items on the agenda.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: *David Byrne*
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 17th February, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Councillors M. Howard, M. Nestor, J. Flynn, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, A. Norton, P. Daly, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, T. O’Brien, M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn, S. Talty, J. Killeen, J. Garrihy, R. Garvey, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating, C. Murphy, I. Lynch.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O’Rourke, Assistant 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.

Deputy Cathal Crowe was in attendance.

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy presided.

Item 1: Election of Cathaoirleach of the Council.

Cllr. P. Daly proposed Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy for the position of Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, this proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney and agreed by all present.

Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy was then deemed elected as Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council until the 2020 Annual General Meeting and Cathal Crowe presented her with the Chain of Office.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy addressed the meeting and thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach Cathal Crowe for his contribution since June and congratulated Cathal on his election to Dáil Éireann. She welcomed her family and friends in the public gallery and thanked her husband Tony and family for their ongoing support. She spoke of her upbringing in County Clare, her educational background and her political career to date. She thanked her elected member colleagues for electing her to the position of Cathaoirleach and stated that she is looking forward to fulfilling the duties of this office to the best of her ability.

The elected members supported Cllr. Colleran Molloy's nomination to the role of Cathaoirleach and complimented her on the way she has carried out her duties since being elected to the Council. She was wished well in representing the county both at home and abroad. It was noted that Cllr. Colleran Molloy has shown ability to deliver for her constituents and will deliver for the county.

Congratulations were extended to Deputy Cathal Crowe on his election to Dáil Éireann and wished him well in his new position. Congratulations were also extended to Cllr. R. Garvey on her excellent vote in the recent general election. The elected members acknowledged the great work

that has been carried out by Timmy Dooley, Pat Breen and their staff and stated that they were always very supportive of Clare County Council during their time in Dáil Éireann.

The Chairperson of Seanad Éireann, Senator Denis O'Donovan was welcomed to the Council Chamber.

Chief Executive, Pat Dowling, congratulated Cllr. Colleran Molloy on her selection and assured her of the co-operation of all staff during her time in Office. Mr. Dowling also congratulated Deputy Cathal Crowe on his election to Dáil Éireann.

Deputy Crowe then addressed the meeting and congratulated Cathaoirleach Clare Colleran Molloy on her appointment. He stated that it is a wonderful moment for her and her family. Deputy Crowe thanked the people of Clare for their support during the general election campaign and reflected on his time as a member of Clare County Council. He welcomed Cllr. Donna McGettigan to the Council and remembered the late Mike McKee. He paid tribute to Pat Dowling, Chief Executive and the staff in Clare County Council for their support during his time as a Councillor and congratulated the Council on being awarded "Council of the Year" during the weekend. He thanked his wife Maeve and family for their ongoing support. Deputy Crowe vowed to remain a friend of Clare County Council and to deliver for this county.

Item 2: Election of Leas Cathaoirleach of Council for coming year.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy called for nominations for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. P. Hayes proposed Cllr. A. O'Callaghan and this was seconded by Cllr. P. Burke and agreed by all present.

As there were no other nominations for the post the Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. A. O'Callaghan elected as Leas Cathaoirleach until the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Members and the Chief Executive joined in wishing Cllr. A. O'Callaghan well in his role as Leas Cathaoirleach over the coming months.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan thanked his fellow members, stated that he is honoured to hold the role of Leas Cathaoirleach and that he was looking forward to working with the new Cathaoirleach and the staff of Clare County Council for the coming months.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

A. Reynolds
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Date:

17th February 2020

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 24th February, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

Present:

Councillors M. Howard, M. Nestor, J. Flynn, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, A. Norton, P. Daly, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, T. O’Brien, J. Crowe, M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn, D. McGettigan, P. O’Gorman, S. Talty, J. Killeen, J. Garrihy, R. Garvey, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating, I. Lynch.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O’Rourke, Assistant 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, Physical Development.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy presided.

Item 1: Co-option to fill vacancy on Clare County Council.

Report dated 24th February, 2020 from Ann Reynolds, A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated at the meeting. The report states that it is proposed to fill the casual vacancy on the Council arising from the election of Cllr. Cathal Crowe to Dáil Éireann. The vacancy will be filled in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, i.e. the person to be nominated by the same registered political party who nominated for election the member who caused the casual vacancy.

Correspondence has been received from the Fianna Fáil party nominating Patrick O’Gorman, O’Gormans Cross, Ballinfonta, Cratloe, Co. Clare for co-option to Clare County Council. Patrick provided his written consent to this co-option.

By virtue of his proposed co-option to the Council, Patrick O’Gorman will also fill the vacant Councillor positions on the following:

- Shannon Municipal District Committee
- Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee and
- Memorial Committee.

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

“That Patrick O’Gorman, O’Gormans Cross, Ballinfonta, Cratloe, Co. Clare be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy in

- the Shannon Municipal District,
- the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee,
- the Memorial Committee.”

The elected members supported this proposal and welcomed Patrick O’Gorman back to Clare County Council. The Councillors recalled Patrick’s previous term in the Council from 1999-2004 as well as his election as Mayor from 2003-2004. The O’Gorman family tradition in politics was noted and the members recalled Patrick’s father Joe’s time as a member of Clare County Council from 1970-1999. The members welcomed Patrick’s friends and supporters present in the public gallery.

Cllr. P. O’Gorman thanked Fianna Fáil for giving him the opportunity to take back the seat on Clare County Council. He wished Deputy Cathal Crowe well in Dáil Éireann and vowed to work tirelessly for the people in Clare and with Council officials going forward. He thanked his supporters in the public gallery.

Chief Executive, Pat Dowling, congratulated Cllr. Patrick O’Gorman on his co-option stated that the staff in Clare County Council will work with him and support him in every way possible.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: *Sam Reynolds*
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Minutes of the adjourned February Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 24th February, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillors M. Howard, M. Nestor, J. Flynn, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, A. Norton, P. Daly, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, T. O’Brien, J. Crowe, M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn, D. McGettigan, P. O’Gorman, S. Talty, J. Killeen, J. Garrihy, R. Garvey, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating, I. Lynch.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O’Rourke, Assistant 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, Physical Development.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy presided.

Item 22. Road signs.

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

“That Clare County Council carry out maintenance works and cleaning of all road signs throughout the County.”

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

“As a result of improving road grant funding there will be capacity going forward to generally improve levels of service across all areas including in relation to maintenance of road signage. I have passed the concerns raised by this notice of motion on to all Area Engineers who in turn will highlight the issue with their General Services Supervisors – on foot of same, there will be enhanced emphasis on maintenance and presentation of signage throughout the public road network in future.”

The elected members supported this notice of motion and requested that the signs be cleaned before the tourist season begins.

Item 28. School curriculums.

Ar moladh Cllr. I. Lynch

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. M. Howard agus C. Murphy agus glacadh leis

"That Clare County Council request the Minister for Education to amend the primary and second level school curriculums respectively to incorporate the inclusion of swimming lessons at primary level and driving lessons at secondary level. We further request that the Minister for Finance make provision in future budgets for both capital and operation expenditure to enable delivery of these in the school curriculum"

This elected members present felt that it would be very beneficial if these life skills could be taught to young people in school.

Item 29. Parental Alienation.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard

Cuidithe ag Cllr. S. Talty agus glacadh leis

"Clare County Council calls on the Irish Government Departments of Health, Justice and Equality and Children and Youth Affairs to recognise that Parental Alienation is "Substantial and sustained dissatisfaction within a caregiver-child relationship associated with significant disturbance in functioning" as coded by the World Health Organisation in the latest International Classification of Diseases version 11 and to implement recommendation 36 of the Report of the Reform of the Family Law System October 2019."

Cllr. M. Howard outlined the background to this notice of motion and the impact parental alienation can have on children.

The elected members thanked and supported Cllr. M. Howard for proposing this issue and it was noted that Clare County Council is the thirteenth Council to adopt this proposal to date.

Item 30. Assessment of housing assistance payment.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

"That this Council would request the Minister's for Housing and Social Protection to carry out an assessment of the housing assistance payment (HAP Scheme) for new applicants, as it is currently not fit for purpose."

The elected members outlined the difficulties being experienced by people in locating suitable accommodation approved under the HAP scheme and the subsequent financial difficulties associated with bridging the gap to pay their rent. The condition of some rented properties was also discussed.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive acknowledged the concerns raised by the members and stated that the HAP scheme has served a lot of people well in the last few years. Mr. Dowling agreed that the threshold in Clare needs to be increased and that the Council will continue to raise this issue.

A. Haugh, Director of Social Development addressed the meeting and stated that Clare is in band 3 for HAP payment which is the lowest band. She informed the members that numerous formal approaches have been made to the Department to address this.

Item 31. RTE analyst.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. A. Norton agus P.J. Ryan

“We are calling on the Minister for Communication/Finance to request RTE to reinstate the football analyst Joe Brolley to his position on the current panel asap. Joe has provided in depth analysis of football for many years and his removal from the panel has taken away from the enjoyment of the game for many people who watch our games on the national station.”

Cllrs. G. Flynn, A. Norton and P.J. Ryan spoke on this motion and stated that people paying TV licences should have a say on how the money should be spent. They stated that Joe Brolly as an analyst was very interesting and controversial.

Cllrs. A. O’Callaghan, J. Cooney, P. O’Gorman and J. Flynn stated that while they respected the signatories associated with this notice of motion they felt that they could not support it and that time in the Council Chamber should be used to debate more fruitful issues.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy asked for a show of hands in favour of supporting this motion which resulted in three Councillors in favour, therefore the motion was defeated.

Item 32. Shannon Airport.

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

“That Clare County Council work closely with like minded local authorities to promote Shannon as an international airport.”

The elected members present agreed that a co-ordinated regional approach is required in promoting Shannon Airport. It was noted that key strategic investment needs to be put in place to support the airport.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive concurred with the sentiments expressed by the members. He explained that the structure of the regions in Ireland have changed and that Clare is now in the Southern Regional Assembly and there are a lot of competing elements in that. Mr. Dowling referred to the establishment of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Plan which is currently commencing, and will be a key centre of growth and focus of investment. Mr. Dowling stated that other local authorities have obligations towards other airports.

Mr. Dowling informed the members that he will be meeting Mary Considine, Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Group in the near future and they will discuss a regional approach to Shannon Airport.

Item 33. L.I.S scheme.

Cllr. B. Chambers requested that this item be deferred to the March meeting and this was agreed by the members present.

Item 34. Early years childcare and education.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Murphy

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. G. Keating agus P. Burke agus glacadh leis

“We are calling on the Government to:

(i) Develop an early years funding model that supports affordable and accessible childcare for parents, high quality for parents and sustainability for providers.

(ii) Introduce and provide adequate funding, at the very least, for an appropriate professional wage in 2020 for early years educators, and

(iii) Establish a single inspection process with a graded compliance system.

Inspections are currently carried out by Tusla, Department of Children and Youth Affairs as well as the Department of Education.”

Cllr. P. Murphy read an extract from a letter he received from his local childcare centre and referred to a protest held in Dublin on 5th February where 30,000 people attended a rally to support the Early Years Alliance over a pay crisis in the sector. He referred to the ongoing difficulties being experienced by educators and providers due to the cost of insurance. Cllr. P. Murphy also informed the meeting that the Early Years Alliance are also seeking adequate funding for the introduction of the living wage for all workers in the sector.

The Councillors present supported Cllr. P. Murphy and stated that they could identify with the issues raised which are happening in childcare centres throughout the country.

Vote of sympathy.

Cllr. M. Begley extended a vote of sympathy to the Hackett and Powell families on the tragic death of Michael Powell, Clonlara and Ardnacrusha.

Acknowledgement.

Cllr. M. Begley stated that he wished to thank Clare County Council for the fantastic work being carried out in Springfield, Clonlara. Cllr. M. Begley stated that the access road to 17 houses is inaccessible and informed the members that Clare County Council protected the houses in advance of the flooding.

The elected members present agreed with Cllr. M. Begley and extended thanks to Clare County Council employees, Clare Civil Defence and the emergency services. The Councillors called for the state agencies to advance the plan for flood relief works in this area.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that this work will continue over the next few weeks and that Clare County Council will push for a more robust and permanent solution for this area.

Item 35. Comhfhreagras/Correspondence.

Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Correspondence dated 13th January, 2020 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in relation to sports coverage for sports fans.
2. Correspondence dated 22nd January, 2020 from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan.
3. Correspondence dated 17th January, 2020 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in connection with a call for an abandonment of the extraction of water from Lough Derg.
4. Correspondence dated 17th January, 2020 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in connection with a call for legislation to outlaw the release of Chinese lanterns and helium balloons.
5. Correspondence dated 3rd February, 2020 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to the introduction of legislation to outlaw the release of Chinese lanterns and helium balloons.
6. Correspondence dated 17th January, 2020 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in connection with a call for an increase in funding for social and affordable housing.
7. Correspondence dated 17th January, 2020 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to the introduction of funding for those building their own homes.
8. Correspondence dated 30th January, 2020 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to the introduction of funding for those building their own homes.
9. Correspondence dated 21st January, 2020 from the Department of Health concerning the home support system in the mid west region.
10. Correspondence dated 9th January, 2020 from Grace O’Sullivan, MEP, in relation to the agriculture sector.
11. Resolution circulated by Leitrim County Council in relation to Project Ireland 2040.
12. Resolution circulated by Roscommon County Council in relation to the provision of Personal Assistance Services.
13. Resolution circulated by Galway County Council in relation to the provision of Personal Assistance Services.
14. 31st Colmcille Winter School entitled “The Contribution of Irish Christianity to Irish, European and World Civilisation” taking place in Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 28th – 29th February, 2020.

15. Preliminary notice for LAMA Spring Training Seminar taking place in Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on 12th – 13th March, 2020.
16. Conference entitled “Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020” taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 20th – 22nd March, 2020.
17. Conference entitled “Tourism, Technology & Competitive Strategies” taking place in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 27th – 29th March, 2020.
18. Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020 taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 22nd April, 2020.
19. AILG Annual Training Conference 2020 taking place in the Longford Arms Hotel, Main Street, Longford on 4th - 5th March, 2020.

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.

Conference entitled “The Development Plan making process” taking place in the Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on 13th February, 2020.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €38.88 including conference fee of €5.

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

AILG Training entitled “The Development Plan making process” taking place in Dooley Hotel, Waterford on 15th February, 2020.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €38.88 including conference fee of €5.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P. McMahon, C. Colleran Molloy, A. O’Callaghan, M. Howard, A. Norton, P.J. Kelly, S. Talty, J. Cooney, P. Daly, T. O’Brien and P.J. Ryan attend this Conference.

Conference entitled “Safety Health & Welfare at Work Act, 2005” taking place in Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 21st – 23rd February, 2020.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €54.35 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllrs. J. Cooney and P. Burke attend this Conference.

Colmcille Winter School taking place in Colmcille Heritage Centre, Churchill, Donegal on 28th & 29th February, 2020.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €68.11.

It was agreed that Cllr. T. O'Brien attend this Conference.

AILG Annual Conference taking place in Longford on 4th & 5th March, 2020.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €444.49.

It was agreed that Cllr. T. O'Brien attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: *Alan Reynolds*
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____