

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis Meeting held at 3.30pm on Tuesday, 5th May 2015, in the Council Chamber, Áras an Contae, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Present:

Councillors: J. Flynn, J. Breen, T. Mc Namara, P. Daly, M. Howard, A. Norton, C. Colleran Molloy and P. Murphy.

Officials: Ger Dollard, Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Catherine O’ Hara, Meetings Administrator & Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the April monthly meeting held on the 7th of April, 2015.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tom McNamara and seconded by Cllr. Ann Norton that the Minutes of the 7th of April, 2015, monthly meeting, as circulated, be agreed and adopted.

Item No. 2. Update on Garraunakilla (Market) Project

G. Dollard reminded members that they had been given a detailed briefing on the Garraunakilla Market Project when they took up office after the local elections in 2014. Some changes to the design and further consultation had taken place since then and residents and businesses in the Garraunakilla area as well as the members of the Farmers Market are now all happy with the final design. Approval for the €1.75m loan had been in place and this loan has been drawn down. A copy of the final design was circulated to members. It is hoped that the project will go out to tender on the 20th of May, 2015, works should commence in September, 2015, and the project should be finished by the end of the first quarter of 2016.

The paved area is part of Phase 1 and will be done as shown on the drawing circulated and will not be continued down to the roundabout as was queried. G. Dollard reminded members that this is a Structure for a covered market and not a new venue. It is hoped that in the future it may be possible to have a 7 day week market in operation. When finished this will be a vibrant location which will add significantly to the centre of Ennis.

Members welcomed the revival of the upper Market area of Ennis and unanimously supported the Project.

As Notice of Motion No. 3 referred directly to Item No. 2 on the Agenda this Motion was also dealt with as part of this Item.

Notice of Motion No. 3 submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen

That Clare County Council set up a Covered Market liaison group to assist in

- a) identifying a vision and future role for the proposed Cover Market.
- b) developing a Longterm strategy to create a successful, viable and sustainable commercial and community operation for the proposed Cover Market.
- c) developing a plan to minimise disruption to users and neighbours during construction.

Such a group might include representatives from Ennis District Elected Members and Executive, adjoining residents and ratepayers, and current Gaurankilla market users.

Ger Dollard, Director of Services replied as follows:

The Council has made significant progress in progressing the detailed design of Phase 1 of the proposed Market Rejuvenation Project. The progression of the detailed design has involved consultation with users and with residents/ businesses in the immediate vicinity. It is expected that this detailed design will shortly proceed to tender stage.

The Council's primary objective is to create a successful, viable and sustainable commercial and community operation for the proposed covered market. It should be noted that the market will have a dual function and provide a car parking facility when not in use.

In line with all major projects, the plan to minimise disruption to users and neighbours during construction can be fully developed when a selected contractor has emerged from the overall tender process. It is at that point that sequencing of activity and overall arrangements can be further considered and discussed.

Item No. 3. Agree date for the Annual Meeting.

G. Dollard informed the members that the AGM must be held before the 30th of June. In the first year directly after the local elections the date for the AGM is set out in regulations and each year thereafter the AGM must be held in either May or June.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara and seconded by Cllr. J. Breen to hold the 2015 AGM at 3.30pm on Wednesday the 24th of June, 2015, and to hold the July meeting at 2pm on the same date.

Item No. 4. Report on Twinning Trip to Langenfeld, Germany.

Cllr. James Breen presented his report on the official Twinning Trip to Langenfeld, Germany. This was a very successful trip and very worthwhile. In particular, the Student Exchange Programme has been very successful. Members who had travelled to Langenfeld suggested that as the delegation from Clare had been treated to such an amazing performance by the choir in Langenfeld, that it would be appropriate to invite the choir to Co. Clare. It was proposed by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr P. Murphy to put forward a motion to the full Council to invite a German delegation to Co. Clare for the St. Patrick's Day Parade 2016.

Item No. 5. Community & Arts Grants 2015.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed to postpone this item to the June meeting.

Item No. 6. Notices of Motion.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

What plans, if any are in place to fully utilise our public resources, namely the Presbyterian Church attached to the DeValera Public Library on Harmony Row.

Helen Walsh, Co. Librarian, replied as follows:-

The Gallery or Presbyterian Church area of the Library is no longer in use due to the flood in 2009. The library and its buildings on the site at Harmony Row (Public library, Art gallery and Local Studies Centre) were all extensively affected by the flood. The Library lost its boiler house and the underground heating system collapsed resulting in having to house the heating system on the roof, there was extensive carpet damage and loss of items stored in the Gallery Link (Presbyterian Church) as well as extensive damage to the Local Studies Centre.

The flood came up through the ground in the Gallery Link and it proved difficult to get any compensation for remedial work in this area. A claim made through IPB yielded €68,134.31 in compensation. This was only sufficient to bring back the much used Library and Local Studies Centre.

The heating system was not re-instated in the Gallery link as at the time there were plans to refurbish it into a commercial Art Gallery. The plans proceeded to tender and acceptance stage but due to insurance problems connected with the erection of a glass frontage – the contractors who were awarded the tender did not proceed. It was then decided that monies set aside for the gallery (€250k) would be used to part finance the Cultúrlann Sweeney Project in Kilkee.

The Library has operated at a loss without this area since; it had been used for all public meetings, bookclubs, talks, workshops, etc. It has been perceived that the lifespan of the present building is about 5 years and as there are plans to build a new Cultural centre for Clare at the site of Glor, it would not have been practicable to spend scarce resources on the Gallery Link.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. Mc Namara was seconded by Cllr. P.Daly

I call on Clare County Council to repair and surface dress the road at Springfield Estate off College View and free the water gullies in front of houses No. 14 & 15.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The road in Springfield Estate is in fair condition and would not be considered for resurfacing at present. The Council will examine the issues with drainage adjacent to No 14 and 15. Repairs will be carried out on the road.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn

Proposal that Clare Co Council look into putting a programme in place to address anti social behaviour / drinking in public places along the river Fergus walkways, specifically the walk from Parnell St car park to the Mill road and the walk from the Maid of Erin bridge to the Turret bridge.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office has contacted the Gardai with the intention of arranging a meeting to identify measures to reduce unsociable activity in this area. The Municipal District Office will inform you of the outcome of the meeting.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

I request Ennis Municipal District to investigate the possibility of purchasing the extensive derelict site at the Buttermarket, Ennis (adjacent to the old Ennis Town Council Offices). Parking in Ennis is at a premium presently and with Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann coming to Ennis in 2016 it would be a great asset for the entire town in the long term.

Ger Dollard, Director of Services replied as follows:

This matter was previously raised by the Elected Members in the former Ennis Town Council and the former Ennis Electoral Area Committee.

This property was placed for auction on two occasions. On both occasions the Council would have sought to purchase the property. On the first occasion the property was withdrawn without a sale and on the second occasion the Council's bid was exceeded by another party.

There were significant issues relating to title and other matters which also formed part of the Council's consideration.

The Council agrees that it is an important site and is currently engaging with the owners. In the event that steps are not taken to improve on the present condition of the overall property, the Council will be taking steps under its statutory powers to bring about an overall improvement.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn

I am requesting that Traffic Calming and Repeater Signs are considered from the Coach-house junction, through Patrick Street and up as far as Lissane/Claremount junction. Also, that a yellow hatch box is provided at the Bell family's yard entrance on Patrick Street in anticipation of increased demand for parking when the Arts and Crafts Centre opens for business.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Council will install repeater speed limit signs on the Lissane Road and Patrick Street Clarecastle and put a double yellow line at the entrance to the Yards at both sides of Patrick Street. The Council is not inclined to use hatch boxes unless they are absolutely necessary as they are specifically for use at public road junctions.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. J.Flynn

I ask that the Municipal District of Ennis install public lighting along the Quin to Sixmilebridge road from Malachy's Bar to the playground and from Malachy's Bar through Feigh Quin to facilitate the buildup of residents living along these roads.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

There is no means of funding additional public lighting in the Road Works Programme in 2015. The Municipal District Office is requesting the cost of installation of public lighting at this location from the public lighting maintenance contractor Airtricity and this will be forwarded for your information.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

That the speed ramp at Friars Close, Ennis be extended from the wall to the footpath in the interest of safety.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The extension of this ramp was to be included in a works list last year and will be included in the next list of macadam works in Ennis.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. Mc Namara was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn

I call on Clare County Council to surface dress the road servicing Houses No. 35 – 39 at Elm Park Lifford Ennis.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office will include this section of road in the list of thin layer cold applied overlay works this year.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J Flynn was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

To seek a progress report on the plans to utilise allocated funding carried over in mid 2014 from Ennis Town Council for amenity and recreational improvements at both Ballyalia Lake and at the Rocky Road.

Ger Dollard, Director of Services, replied as follows:-

As previously notified to Members for the Ennis Municipal District, capital funding has been retained in respect of recreational improvements at both Ballyalia Lake and at the Rocky Road.

Some improvements were undertaken at Ballyalia Lake in 2014 under the Public Area Enhancement Scheme. Issues in relation to the Rocky Road are still stalled as acquisition of the relevant land at this location has not proceeded.

The Members will be aware of the decision of full Council at its April meeting to allocate the sum of €100,000 towards a Public Area Enhancement Scheme in 2015. It is possible that initiatives from Tidy Towns groups may emerge for further improvement works at these locations.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

I call on Ennis Municipal District to install a compactor that would take wet waste and household rubbish at Ennis Recycling Centre, similar to the compactor that is installed in Lisdeen Recycling Centre. It would save many people the journey of traveling to the Inagh facility from the Municipal District of Ennis area.

Paul Moroney, A/Senior Engineer, replied as follows:

In order to install a wet waste compactor in Ennis Recycling Centre the following issues will have to be resolved:

A change to the current authorization will be required; Ennis Recycling Centre operates under a Certificate of Registration (CoR) which was granted under the Waste Management (Permit) Regulations 1998 if CCC requests to accept wet waste at the facility this would be considered a significant change to the authorization and a review or new application would be required, this

review or new application would be assessed under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations 2008 as amended. The conditions attached with these Certificates of Registration under the 2008 regs. are more onerous than the older regulations. These CoRs have to be reviewed every 5 years and there would be a significant extra cost associated with operating under them. Our current wet waste facilities, Central Waste Management Facility, Scarriff and Lisdeen are waste transfer stations and all operate under the conditions of a Waste License.

There are also extra obligations under the European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations 2013, such as: any facility accepting residual household waste will have to operate on a pay-by-weight basis, there will be a minimum charge per kilo set by the Department, proof will have to be provided to demonstrate a householder is managing their waste by using this service and a customer charter will have to be in place. There will be a cost associated with complying with these obligations.

If wet waste is accepted then a food waste recycling service will also have to be provided, there may be extra issues with providing these services e.g. odour or vermin nuisances and these need to be provided for.

The location and access to Ennis Recycling centre will have to be considered, will the extra traffic associated with providing this service cause congestion problems in the industrial park, the layout of the site may need to be altered, there may be issues queuing at the facility.

There are a number of different types of unit available and they have implications on space and power supply.

These issues are still under consideration at present. We are in favour of the service in principle however we have not yet decided on the final option for the facility.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

In the interest of road safety I am requesting that a double yellow line be provided on one side of Main Street, Clarecastle.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

There is an existing double yellow line from the Bridge on the South side of Main Street to the entrance to Church Drive. This double yellow line now in need of renewal was in place when the road was the N18. The number of vehicles travelling through the village has significantly reduced since the construction of the M18 bypass and N85 Relief Road.

The double yellow line is on the appropriate side due to the sightline at the corner on Main Street when approaching from the Bridge however the extent of the double yellow line may not be necessary due to the reduced traffic flow through the village. The Council will check the traffic counts on Main Street and renew the necessary sections of the double yellow lines.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn

I ask that the Municipal District of Ennis install public lighting in Doora between the Mary K Crèche and the National School.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

There is no means of funding additional public lighting in the Road Works Programme in 2015.

The Municipal District Office is requesting the cost of installation of public lighting at this location from the public lighting maintenance contractor Airtricity and this will be forwarded for your information.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and was unanimously supported by members.

In order to revitalise towns and villages, that this MD call on the Minister to re introduce the Urban Renewal Scheme

Members unanimously supported this motion and would welcome an incentive to revitalise our towns and villages. It was agreed by members to include both Urban and Villages Renewal Schemes in this Motion as new businesses are needed in Ennis and while it might cost the Government initially the return will be there in the future.

Any Other Business

- Flooding outside Co. Hospital, Ennis - An issue had been raised about a flooding problem outside the County Hospital since the new extension had been built. The HSE are to address the drainage issue as it is on the grounds of the Co. Hospital, which was formally owned by the Council.
- Artefacts – Members welcomed the active response to the request for a loan of artefacts from the Museum of Ireland for the Co. Museum in Ennis.
- St. Michael’s Villas – progress has been made and members will be updated further at the June meeting.

The meeting then concluded.