

**Minutes of the September 2017 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 12th September, 2017,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

Councillors: J. Breen, C. Colleran Molloy, A. Norton, T. McNamara, P. Murphy & M. Howard & J. Flynn.

Officials: Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, Barry Conway, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Noeleen Fitzgerald, Fleadh Coordinator, Adrian Kelly, C.F.O., A. Reynolds, Administrative Officer & F. Whelan, Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. P. Daly

Item No. 1. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee held on 22nd June 2017.

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. J. Breen and agreed by Members.

Item No. 2. Minutes of the July Meeting of Municipal District of Ennis Committee held on 22nd June, 2017.

This item was proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara, seconded by Cllr. J. Breen and agreed by Members.

Item No. 3. Community Facilities Scheme – approvals Report

This item was proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.

Item No. 4. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2017 – Report

Noeleen Fitzgerald, Fleadh Coordinator Clare County Council, presented the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Report 2017 to the meeting.

Members noted the Report and the contents therein.

Members congratulated the staff of Clare County Council and all other agencies involved in the success of the 2017 “greatest Fleadh ever”. The official opening by Michael Flatley was the highlight of the week which created a fantastic atmosphere that continued right through to the farewell event. Fleadh 2017 in Ennis hosted the largest attendance ever in its entire history. Ennis town and the wider County have been showcased on the world stage which will have a long lasting legacy for both the town and County. Various media coverage of the Fleadh will be live on with TV broadcasts yet to be run into 2018 and onwards. The Event Control Room, which was stationed at Áras Contae an Chláir, was a first of its kind in the Country for such an event and was hailed as a massive success for the management of such a large scale event.

Furthermore, with the success of the new Ennis Market building hosting Fleadh TV it is hoped that this will have a positive effect going forward. Following on from recent criticism of the cost of the building at Ennis Market, Fleadh 2017 has highlighted the building as a venue and public space which can be utilised for various other events into the future. It was also noted by members that the cost of the building itself was in the region of €500,000 with the remainder of the €1.75m spend on the entire upgrade of the area and it's impressive streetscape.

Item No. 5. Declaration of Public Roads regarding the following developments:

- **Inis Clair, Kildysart Rd, Clarecastle**

Proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by members.

- **Dromard, Laureen, Ennis**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by members.

- **Cluain Ros Leamhain, Tulla Rd, Ennis.**

Proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.

Item No. 6. Notices of Motion

No. 1. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy

In the interest of health and safety, I request the EMD council consider having a Municipal bonfire this Halloween and prohibit other unauthorised bonfires. Plus I request Chief Fire Officer Adrian Kelly attend our meeting.

Adrian Kelly, C.F.O., replied as follows:-

It would be inappropriate for the Local Authority to arrange a Municipal bonfire as such an event would be in breach of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, and the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 286 of 2009) on the grounds that waste timber and other waste materials would be used as a fuel source.

Members further discussed this Notice of Motion and agreed that a bonfire would not be a suitable event to hold. A more family friendly event is currently being planned by the new festival & events coordinator based at Ennis Chamber of Commerce.

No. 2. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

That the lack of public lighting & poor road conditions on the Ballybeg Road between the Water Tower & McCarthys Offices be immediately addressed in light of a potentially serious fatal incident that occurred there recently.

Barry Conway, A/S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The L-4176 is not included in the 2017 roadworks programme having been resurfaced in 2015. This road will be assessed by the municipal district office with a view to determining and quantifying the extents of any improvements required. Consideration can then be given to necessary works in future works programmes subject to funding being available at the time.

No. 3 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

That Ennis Municipal District Committee in the interest of public safety request Clare County Council to urgently provide public lighting on the stretch of Ballybeg road from the Water tower to McCarthys office which is in darkness.

Pat Lynch, Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

In reply to this request for additional public lighting between Ballybeg water tower and McCarthy offices, there is no current funding available in public lighting to provide lighting in this section of road. The level of funding which is made available to the public lighting section on an annual basis for new and upgrade works would not cover the cost to provide lighting at this location so it is unlikely that we will be in a position to provide lighting here in the near future.

No. 4. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

That this Council requests Iarnrod Eireann to immediately remove the trees from the car park at Ennis Railway Station. The trees appear to be suffering from a virus and there is a danger that this could spread to Station Court Housing Estate and the mature trees in the surrounding area.

No response required.

Members further discussed this Notice of Motion. It was agreed that a letter would issue to Iarnrod Eireann to urgently act on this matter.

It was also suggested that Clare County Council's environmental officer would investigate the matter.

No. 5. NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I am requesting that footpaths, lighting and any other required works on the Ballybeg road are included in the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2018. This is in relation to the "middle section" from the water tower down to the bottom of the hill near Mc Carthy's units and also the narrow section at Shaw's Bridge.

Barry Conway A/S.E.E. replied as follows:-

This road will be assessed by the municipal district office with a view to determining and quantifying the extents of any improvements required. Consideration can then be given to necessary works in future works programmes, subject to funding being available at the time.

No. 6. NOM submitted by Cllr. Ann Norton was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

Can the Road department of Clare County Council look at adding additional disabled parking spaces outside the CBS school, Rice college and Colaiste Muire Ennis.

Barry Conway A/S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The Ennis MD will make contact with each of the three schools mentioned in order to determine the current requirement for disabled parking spaces. Once received, this information will allow us to compare the requirement with the number of spaces currently available and investigate the possibility of additional spaces if deemed necessary.

No. 7. NOM submitted by Cllr. Tom McNamara was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

I call on Clare County Council to erect signage indicating Cul de Sac and housing development immediately after Beach Park roundabout on the R474.

Barry Conway A/S.E.E. replied as follows:-

The Ennis MD will erect a Cul de Sac sign at the junction of the road in question and the R474. However, this road is a private road with serviced sites and not a "housing development". It does not have a name or a number for identification purposes.

No. 8. NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was moved by Cllr. T. McNamara in Cllr. Daly's absence.

I call on Ennis Municipal District to improve the condition of the wall from the old Francie O'Halloran building at Turnpike Road up to the 5 bungalows on Clonroadbeg, Ennis.

Barry Conway A/S.E.E., replied as follows:-

This stone wall is in private ownership and any associated maintenance or upkeep is the responsibility of the landowner.

No. 9. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I request that EMD urgently deal with the road surface at Spencilhill, this small section of road is in an appalling and treacherous state .
(R352- The Ennis side of Spencilhill from Noel Kelly's to the cross)

Barry Conway A/S.E.E. replied as follows:

This section of road is included in the 2017 road works programme and will be resurfaced in the coming weeks.

Members further discussed the crossroads at Norrie Henchy's Pub. The exit onto the Tulla Road at this location is very dangerous. Warning signs were requested to slow traffic down in the area.

No. 10. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

Ennis Municipal District Committee wish to demonstrate a commitment to welcoming coaches and their passengers to Ennis & County Clare by requesting Clare County Council to apply for 'Coach Friendly Destination' accreditation from the Coach Transport Tourism Council of Ireland (CTTC) for the Ennis Town Centre Coach Park. The achievement of such a designation would greatly contribute to the local economy by raising awareness of the high quality coach arrangements & facilities at the Ennis Coach park - a transport hub for both Ennis and County Clare for School Tours , Domestic and International tour visitors.

Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, replied as follows:-

The provision of the Ennis Town Centre Coach Park in the town centre has made a significant contribution to the economic growth and tourist product for Ennis and Co. Clare as well as enhancing the social and transport infrastructure for the benefit of citizens.

Clare County Council supports the proposal as set out in this Notice of Motion to apply for 'Coach Friendly Destination' accreditation from the Coach Transport Tourism Council of Ireland (CTTC) for the Coach Park.

No. 11. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

That Ennis Municipal District address the longstanding deplorable and dangerous condition of the paths and road at Woodside, Roslevan, which are covered in moss and potholes.

Barry Conway, A/S.E.E., replied as follows:

Work has recently been carried out to the footpaths in Woodside to remove moss and improve the surface. Any occurrence of potholes will be addressed by our roads crews as part of their routine maintenance.

As part of this Notice of Motion members appealed to motorists not to park on footpaths. Wheelchairs users and people with buggies are unable to use the footpaths if cars are parked in this manner.

No. 12. NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

Following on from having raised this item numerous times in the past, I am requesting the up to date situation in regard to the tendering and likely timescale of works in relation to the Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme. What is the latest delay and is it possible to separate the St. Flannan's and Ballybeg projects from each other in order to achieve progress.

Eugene O'Shea, A/Senior Engineer, replied as follows:

The current status in relation to the Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme is that a tender recommendation has been received from the consultants for this scheme and sent to the OPW for their approval. As the St. Flannan's and Ballybeg projects are both bound into the contract it is not possible to separate them. A timescale of works is not currently available.

Members voiced their disappointed on the uncertainty of this Scheme and requested the matter to be addressed further by the Senior Engineer at a briefing ahead of the October monthly meeting.

No. 13. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

I am asking this Council, in conjunction with the Gardaí, that the speed limit on the Kilbreckan Road, Doora, be reduced to 50 kph on the entire road. When you enter from the N85 it is 80 kph and when you enter from the Tulla Road it is 50 kph.

Barry Conway A/S.E.E. replied as follows:

The road in question is the L-4116 in Kilbreckan and was not included in the recent speed limit review. The speed limit on the entire road is currently 80kmph and any inconsistencies in current signage will be rectified by the Ennis MD for the avoidance of any confusion.

Item No. 7. Correspondence

- Letter from Ger Dollard (read to the meeting by Mayor of Ennis). Members acknowledged the 20 years service of the former Director of Services, Ger Dollard, who had recently departed from Clare County Council to take up his new position as Chief Executive of Bord na gCon. Ger was a valued member of staff with Clare County Council and his commitment to his job was exceptionally strong. Members wished Ger well in his new position.
- Letter from Iarnrod Éireann (read to the meeting by Meetings Administrator)

Item No. 8. Any Other Business

- Members acknowledged the 1st Anniversary of the tragic death of Caitriona Lucas who lost her life on a rescue mission off Kilkee Coast in 2016.
- Members congratulated Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator, on her appointment and promotion to Business Review Leader within Clare County Council.
- Members wished Brian McCarthy well in his role as Acting Director of Services.
- The residents of Quin village wished to thank Clare County Council for the installation of the new VMS signs in the area.
- Members wished to congratulate all the Ennis swimmers involved in the European Life Saving Championships who had brought home a large amount of medals from the event.

Signed: 
Mayor

Signed: 
Meetings Administrator

Date: 10th October 2017.