

**Minutes of the February 2018 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 13th February, 2018,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

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

Officials: Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer and Orla Shanagher, Asst. Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. A. Norton & Cllr. P. Daly
Bernadette Haugh, Meetings Administrator.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the January Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee held on 9th January, 2018.

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

Matters Arising

- *Members sought an update on Notice of Motion No. 13 from the January 2018 meeting in relation to a full time caretaker being appointed to Drumcliffe Graveyard. B. McCarthy, A/DOS, confirmed that this item has been referred to the Rural Development Directorate and to Human Resources for their attention.*
- *Members queried if contact has been made in relation to supporting the Dysart O’Dea commemoration scheduled for May 2018. This was confirmed.*

Item No. 2. Budget Allocations 2018.

Ennis Book Club Festival 2018 - €8,000

This item was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. J. Breen and €8,000 was agreed by members.

It was further agreed by members, that as was the case in 2017, the Book Club Festival grant for 2018 could be increased from €8,000 to €10,000 once the overall GMA was agreed and if there was funds remaining to allow for this.

Item No. 3. Notices of Motion.

No. 1. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

Building on the successful 2017 joint Tourism initiative between the Local Authority, Local Businesses and Ennis Chamber, which resulted in Ennis being awarded the Coach Friendly Destination (CFD) Award, as a member of the Ennis CFD committee I ask for an update on progress, if any, on the potential of Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) running locally an

accredited Course for Tourism guides for Ennis - as a 2018 joint Tourism initiative between the Local Authority, local businesses, Ennis Chamber and LIT itself.

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

A working group / committee was formed last year to achieve CTTC 'Coach Friendly Destination' accreditation for Ennis – and although this accreditation is in place since October 2017, the committee, comprising public representatives and local business owners, decided to stay active, to build on the accreditation to create a genuine 'Coach Friendly' package for Ennis, with a number of initiatives and actions.

One of the initiatives includes the development of an experiential tourism product for the town e.g. walking tours across a number of locations and attractions in Ennis.

In that regard the Economic Directorate of Clare County Council has been in discussions with Limerick Institute of Technology regarding the potential to run an accredited Course for Tourism guides for Ennis, as a 2018 joint Tourism initiative between the Local Authority, local businesses, Ennis Chamber. Such a course would assist in providing formalized training for guides, creating a high standard of guides with particular expertise in Ennis, enhancing the visitor experience whilst also up-skilling and creating employment.

In principle I am advised that the course and logistics are in place and subject to funding, such course could be offered in Ennis to potential participants within the next 3 months.

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

That the illegal encampment that took place over the weekend of the 21st January, 2018, alongside the Kilrush Road be removed forthwith.

Siobhan McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, replied as follows:

In conjunction with the Ennis MD staff, the Housing Section is currently investigating the alleged unauthorised encampment on the Kilrush Road, Ennis.

Members further discussed this issue and expressed their serious concerns on the matter. The location involved, in this instance, poses a health & safety risk. While considering the rights of the travelling community, the rights of the general public also need to be considered. Transient sites for the travelling community should be examined by the Council. Members appealed to the travelling community not to engage in setting up alleged illegal camp sites.

No. 3. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

I request that all speed bumps in Ennis are upgraded to the same design as those speed ramps on the R474 outside Ennis Golf Club.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

Traffic calming measures provided in the Ennis Municipal District were in accordance with the design guidelines or good practice at the time these were installed. When a location is being considered for traffic calming measures a number of means of traffic calming will be considered. Funding is not available to carry out adjustment of all speed ramps however replacement of existing speed ramps will be included in any traffic calming works proposed by the MD Office.

No. 4. NOM submitted by Cllr. Ann Norton was deferred.

That Clare County Council and the Ennis Municipal District look at taking in charge the Defibrillators that are in areas across the town.

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

In 2012 the Ennis Defibrillator Committee was formed consisting of representatives from Ennis Chamber, Clare Branch of the Irish Red Cross, local sports clubs, and individual members of the public and business people. The initiative led to the purchase and installation by the Committee of a number of defibrillators in Ennis. I am advised however that this committee is no longer in existence.

Defibrillators are a very useful resource to have in the town; however as with all such complex medical devices and equipment, it is imperative that a care and maintenance program is in place and servicing of the devices regularly undertaken. In the absence of the committee, to date no single person or organisation has taken full responsibility for the ongoing care and maintenance of them.

It is respectfully suggested that this matter should be raised via the HSE West Health Forum to bring the matter to the HSE for its consideration as it is the most appropriate agency for assuming responsibility for the devices.

No. 5. NOM submitted by Cllr. Tom McNamara was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

I call on Clare County Council to carry out essential drainage works and resurface the local road-L-4164 (Inch Bridge to N68 Edenvale), i.e. the road between the Kilrush Road and Inch Bridge.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

This road is listed in the 2018 roadworks programme and the works will be part funded by road opening licence levies from the WRCE cable duct contract.

No. 6. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I am requesting a progress report on the re-alignment plan for the N85 at Kilnamona?

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

Consultation with landowners was carried out in 2017 and more detailed flood assessments were required. The Regional Road Design Office and Consulting Engineers were carrying out survey work in December-January with the intention of responding to queries in the next two months.

Members further discussed this matter and noted that this seemed to be a slow process and should now be progressed without further delay. Members requested that Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, should attend the next meeting with an update.

No. 7. NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

I am requesting that the outstanding works in Clarecastle under the Urban & Village Renewal Scheme are carried out as a matter of urgency and in advance of the reopening of Latoon Bridge.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

The remaining ducting work on Quay Road will be completed this month and the tender for the provision of new footpaths on Main Street from Quay Road to the bend at the Cross Bar (outer limit of works area) will be completed before the Latoon Bridge works are completed. This will complete Phase 2 of the project and work on phase 3 at the junction of Patrick Street /Main street will be subject to further UVR Funding. Irish Water has a proposal for a rising main from the Quay Road Pumping Station to Clareabbey WWTP and site investigation trial pits will commence soon for this project. The works involved significant and detailed interventions to ESB, lighting, drainage and footpath infrastructure and the scope and extent of works and nature and finishes of materials need to be aligned with available funding and resources.

No. 8. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

That the Ennis Municipal District request the Clare County Solicitor to investigate if a legal right of way from St Joseph's church and The Crescent estate areas across lands adjoining St Anne's school to the Corrovoin Graveyard, which has been enjoyed for decades by residents of Corrovorrin, Kevin Barry Avenue and the general public, exists and if it has been interfered with.

No response required.

Members discussed this item and a detailed history and tradition of the right of way was explained. It was requested that the Planning Dept of Clare County Council should investigate old right of ways and record them. It was further agreed to write to the County Solicitor to establish if this was a marked right of way or an assumed right of way.

No. 9. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

That an update be provided of the promised design & costing for footpath & lighting upgrade of the Ballybeg Road from the Water Tower to the Kildysert Road.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

Survey and preliminary road alignment drawings have been completed on this section of the Ballybeg Road. Resources within the MD Office and Road Design Office are required for work that funding is provided for in the Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations from the Dept of Transport. As resources come available the detailed design and costing for footpath and public lighting on the Ballybeg Road will be progressed.

Members further discussed this notice of motion and queried if the Council could apply for a Specific Improvement Grant Scheme for this stretch of road. The Telecom poles need to be moved as part of the proposed works. E. O'Dea, S.E.E., informed the meeting that currently there is no budget in place as bridges were prioritised under the recent Specific Improvement Grant Scheme. This road needs to be prioritised under any future funding.

No. 10. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

I urgently request that the Council provide for a roundabout at the junction of the N85 and Shanaway Rd.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

I have asked the Senior Engineer to prioritise this work in the Road Design Section so a feasibility study can be forwarded to the TII for improvements to the N85 from the Claureen Roundabout to the speed limit at Loughville.

Members welcomed this Notice of Motion and agreed that there are a number of locations on the outskirts of the town that need mini roundabouts. The Council's Road Design Office should be requested to prioritise 3 such locations i.e. Shanaway Road, Gort Road Industrial Estate and the junction from Lees Road onto the Gort Road. A feasibility study can then be submitted to the T.I.I. to progress the matter.

No. 11. NOM submitted by Cllr. Tom McNamara was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

Following the completion of the laying of the 110Kv cable along the R474 I call on Clare County Council to carry out essential resurfacing works on the road between Kilcolumb Cross and the western end of the Ennis municipal District near Connolly village.

Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

The Ennis MD Office has submitted this section of the R474 as one of the priorities for funding available from the WRCE Road Opening Licence Levies and WRCE Development Levies. Once funding is approved the works will be arranged by the MD Office

No. 12. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy.

In view of the commitment given by this Council I’m wondering why we haven’t been given the quarterly report on the progress of Notices of Motions already submitted?

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

Following confirmation from Corporate Services, I am advised that Corporate Services are investigating the possibility in the near future of a tracking, management and recording system for Notices of Motion raised at the four Municipal Districts, similar to that recently introduced at the Monthly Meetings of the Clare County Council.

This system is not currently in place in the Municipal Districts and therefore quarterly reports are not available.

Members welcomed the prospect that the management system introduced at the full Council Monthly Meetings will be extended to the four Municipal Districts in due course. A quarterly report on capital projects would be very beneficial.

No. 13. NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

I am requesting that the following roads are included in the 2018 Roadworks Programme:

- i) Skehanagh Cross (Kerins') to Skehanagh/Knockinamana/Killow crossroads.
- ii) Quin School to Danganbrack cross.
- iii) Remainder of Claremount road, Clarecastle.
- iv) From Michael Burke's, Derreen, Clarecastle to Jaspers Bridge.
- v) From Edenvale cross to the Ivyhill junction, and that representations would be made to the West Clare office to have the remainder this road up to where it meets the Lower Inch road also included.
- vi) The parking areas to the front of Knockanean school.

Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

Some of these roads are being considered in the preparation of the Roadworks Programme for 2018

Item No. 4. Correspondence

None.

Item No. 5. Any Other Business.

- Members wished to congratulate Barry Cotter, Cusack Road, Ennis, on his recent achievement on being signed with Ipswich Town Soccer Club.
- Members congratulated Robert Burns, E.E., Housing Dept., on his promotion and wished to thank him for his work with Clare County Council and wished him well in his post in Dublin.
- Pot holes in Tobertasain, Ennis, need attention.

- De Valera Library – museum & art gallery progress was queried. This could be progressed through a Notice of Motion at the next monthly meeting.
- An application has been received by the Planning Dept for an extension of time on an existing grant of planning at Our Lady’s Hospital, Gort Road, Ennis.
- It is hoped that Minister Boxer Moran will announce the next phase of the Ennis Flood Relief Scheme when he visits Ennis on Friday.
- Roads area staff were thanked for works done at Kilmaley Cross near the Post Office.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis.

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator.

Date: _____