

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District held on Wednesday 17th September, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the offices of the Municipal District at Mountshannon Road, Scariff.

In attendance: Cllr. Joe Cooney
Cllr. Pat Hayes
Cllr. Michael Begley
Cllr. Pat Burke
Cllr. Tony O'Brien
Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

Officials: Mr. Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Pat Henchy, Executive Engineer
Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Cooney chaired the meeting.

Vote of Sympathy.

At the outset, a vote of sympathy was passed and a minutes silence was held following the death of the following people;

Mary Ellen Minogue, mother of Bridget Minogue, Corporate Services.
Brian McGrath, brother of Hugh McGrath, S.E.E.
Thomas Collins, retired Council Employee.
Kitty Moroney, mother of Jim Moroney, Scariff Area.

Item 1 Minutes of Municipal District Meeting held on 16th July, 2014.

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 16th July, 2014 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes and seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan.

Item 2 Date for next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 19th November, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

Item 3 Set prescribed date for budget meeting.

It was agreed that the budget meeting will take place on Thursday, 9th October, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Item 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan.

“Request Clare County Council to erect a yield right of way sign between Sorreny Cross and Castlecrine. T-junction has no markings.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Having reviewed the junction, we will arrange for provision of the appropriate signage and/or marking at the earliest opportunity.”

Item 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan.

“Request Clare County Council to take over Ballymulcashel housing estate at Kilmurry. Section 180 has been submitted.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Cooney

Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, Planning and Enterprise Development replied as follows:

“A Section 180 request from the residents was received by the Planning Department on the 26th August 2014 in relation to Ballymulcashel estate.

Clare County Council will follow due process in progressing the request and in doing so consider all available options in terms of progressing the estate to taking in charge standard in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the residents of this development. The developer in this case is in receivership, there is no bond in place and the development is served by a Waste Water Treatment Plant. As Irish Water is now the Water Services Authority, the Planning Authority is legally obliged to consult with them on Taking in Charge matters on all estates but particularly in relation to estates that have Waste Water Treatment Plants. Consequently, this development will be subject to that consultation process with Irish Water.”

The members spoke in favour of requesting a representative from Irish Water to attend a meeting of the Municipal District to address a number of different issues. Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer advised that the Council had received recent correspondence from Irish Water about their attendance at meetings held at local level and he agreed to circulate this correspondence to the members.

Item 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan.

“Motion to Clare County Council to replace signs at Hannons Cross, Quin Road out of Kilmurry as they are all paint.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan
Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Having examined the location we are arranging for rectification of this signage.”

Item 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Joe Cooney.

“That Clare County Council improve the public lighting at the entrance to Tuamgraney Church. Extend the footpath beyond the main gate and move the speed monitor out the Killaloe Road before you approach the built up area all in the interest of road safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Cooney
Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Significant work in this area has already been carried out in co-operation with various local groups including the Tidy Towns, Tuamgraney Development Association & the Parish Council. There is no funding mechanism for improvements to public lighting and footpaths other than through the use of already overstretched existing maintenance budgets. Where possible, we have been and will continue to liaise with groups such as these to facilitate co-operative locally led initiatives where we are providing primarily a facilitative role. Financial support is not generally available, and where appropriate it is limited given the extent of works of this nature throughout the Municipal District.”

Item 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Joe Cooney.

“That Clare County Council carry out road works on the Knockmeal Road, Crusheen as it is in very bad repair.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Cooney
Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The road referred to connects the L8000 Crusheen-Ruan Road at Knockmael East to the old N18 at Cappanapeasta at the Galway border. While no improvement grant works are proposed for this road in the current Roadworks Programme, we have carried out remedial maintenance repairs on this road recently to address the issue.

More extensive improvements can be considered in future roadworks programme having regard to the determined prioritisation factors.

The road is suitable for grant application under the Community Involvement Scheme (C.I.S.) that has operated over the past 2 years, should this scheme be available in future years.”

Item 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Joe Cooney.

“That Clare County Council give an up to date on works on footpaths in the Scariff town and when they hope to carry out these works.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“It is anticipated that we will carry out some footpath repairs in Scarriff in the coming months, once all other grant programme works are sufficiently advanced.”

Hugh McGrath added that the Council had identified a number of areas within the town and these areas would receive priority.

Item 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Burke.

“Calling on Clare County Council to repair the road that leads from Cappabane out to Bohatch, Mountshannon and also the Maghereagh Road, Mountshannon. These roads have become impassable causing a major inconvenience particularly for landowner's in the area.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The L8072 road at Cappaghbaun\Bohatch and the L80721 at Magherareagh are local tertiary roads not in regular use for residential access, and are primarily used for agricultural access.

Localised maintenance works have been carried out in recent days, and Clare County Council will continue to provide maintenance within our resources for roads such as this which can

include provision of material where this is pragmatic to address roads that operate primarily for agricultural access.

These roads would be suitable for grant application under the Community Involvement Scheme (C.I.S.) that has operated over the past 2 years, should this scheme continue to be available in future years.”

Item 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Burke.

“Calling on Clare County Council to complete Footpath works opposite Mountshannon N.S.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The works referred to are desirable and we hope to complete this work provided funds and resources are available.”

Item 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Burke.

“Calling on Clare County Council to relocate the speed monitor in Tuamgraney on the Killaloe Road further out of the village.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“While the request is noted, the location was chosen on engineering grounds with a number of considerations. We are satisfied that the location was well chosen. While we have provided a number of such driver feedback signs in the operational area we have specifically procured signs that are capable of being easily relocated to other locations in the operational area as we determine a benefit will arise. In this regard, there are several other locations within the Municipal District where these are being considered for relocation.”

The members spoke of the benefit of these speed monitors and requested that they remain in Tuamgraney on a permanent basis. They hoped that additional funds could be provided. Hugh McGrath advised the members of the level of works the Council had carried out in the Tuamgraney area and reminded the members that these monitors had been installed in

Tuamgraney for a six month period but it was always made clear that they would only be temporary.

Item 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Hayes.

“I propose that a review of traffic management in Tulla be carried out with particular emphasis on parking and traffic movement around the town, and also to look at issues around traffic safety at both national and secondary schools.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Seconded by: Cllrs. Joe Cooney and Alan O’Callaghan

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“It is agreed that improvements can be made to the management of traffic and particularly parking in the centre of Tulla. While we can further develop traffic management plans previously considered, in order to advance any improvements we will require positive input from the business community and road-users. In particular we will be seeking cooperation in regard to improved use and re-designation of road frontage of property owners\occupiers.”

Cllr. Pat Hayes agreed to set up a meeting between Council staff and businesses based in Tulla and it was agreed that Cllr. Joe Cooney and Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan would also attend this meeting.

Item 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Hayes.

“I am asking for an update on progress to deal with the ongoing problem of hedge cutting and the dangerous situation of many of our roads from a road safety point of view.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We are continuing to remind landowners\occupiers on an ongoing basis of their obligations under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 asking them to take all necessary precautionary measures immediately to trim any overhanging and dangerous trees or hedges on roadside properties in the interest of road safety. We are heartened by the positive actions of a significant number within this correspondence and indeed a substantial number of responsible landowners who don’t need to be notified. There are however a section of the community who have not engaged responsibly and these negligent landowners are putting motorists and other road users at risk as well as causing larger vehicles unnecessary damage due to untrimmed trees and hedges.”

The members outlined their continued frustration on this issue and the lack of finance that was available for the Council to carry out hedgecutting in additional areas. Michael McNamara agreed to circulate the Hedgecutting Policy and the legal advice received to the members. It was also agreed that Clare County Council should run an advertising campaign on Clare FM advising landowners of their responsibility in this area.

Item 15 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Hayes.

“I am asking for a report from The Lough Derg Marketing Group for their proposals to spend €2 million in the Lough Derg region, and what projects will be supported in the Clare area and when will the new signage scheme be put in place.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Seconded by: Cllrs Tony O’Brien and Michael Begley

The members also welcomed the news that Clare County Council were in advanced talks to purchase Holy Island.

Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Tourism & Community replied as follows:

“A Roadmap for Experience Development and Destination Marketing 2014-2017 sets out the overall vision, project proposals and marketing opportunities for Lough Derg.

The Economic Stimulus Fund of €2m. will fund a number of projects in Clare, Galway and Tipperary. Clare County Council has submitted four projects for consideration at this initial stage. These projects are:

1. Killaloe Car Park at a cost of €18,000
2. Bird Hide, Mountshannon at a cost of €30,000
3. Extension of footpath from Killaloe to Ballycuggeran at a cost of €100,000
4. Ballycuggeran Amenity Scheme at a cost of €3,000,000

Failte Ireland has confirmed that the costs associated with the provision of the Bird Hide in Mountshannon are ineligible as the expenditure has been incurred prior to formal approval issuing.

Further information has been requested by Failte Ireland on the other three projects above and this information will be submitted to Failte Ireland this week. It is envisaged that a final decision on the projects selected for funding will be known in the coming weeks.

Implementation of the Signage Strategy is expected to commence in early 2015.”

Item 16 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley.

“That the Council provide an up-date on the completion and “Taking – in – Charge” of Churchfields Development in Clonlara.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley
Seconded by: Cllrs. Joe Cooney and Tony O’Brien

Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, Planning and Enterprise Development replied as follows:

“The works required to complete this development at Churchfields, Clonlara to the required standard for Taking in Charge are substantially complete. The Planning Authority understands that the final wearing course to the estate road remains to be addressed by the Developer. On completion of these works, Clare County Council will formally commence the statutory process to take in charge this estate. As Irish Water is now the Water Services Authority, the Planning Authority is legally obliged to consult with them on Taking in Charges matters on all estates and any proposal to take this development in charge will be subject to that consultation process.

Progress on this development is reflective of the Councils strong commitment to resolve issues on unfinished developments and this development is among a number of developments being progressed to the required standard for taking in charge in addition to the fifteen developments already taken in charge to date this year.”

Item 17 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley.

“That the Clonlara name plate at Clonlara Cross (junction R471/R463) be relocated as it is obstructing the sight line.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. Tony O’Brien

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We will review this sign location and relocate if it is causing an issue with visibility.”

Item 18 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

“That a short section of the Doonass Road L-3050 the G.A.A. field be fully overlaid as it is constantly potholed.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“While it is accepted that this road needs ongoing maintenance it is not in the current Roadworks Programme.

It can be considered in future roadworks programme having regard to the determined prioritisation factors.”

Following a discussion, Hugh McGrath agreed to review the issue with a view to carrying out some works at this location.

Item 19 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Tony O’Brien

“That Clare County Council improve sight distances at the junction of the R466 and the L3022-0 (The turn for Kilbane off the Bridgetown to Broadford road).”

Proposed by: Cllr. Tony O’Brien
Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“It is agreed that this is a junction that needs improvement. Typically the appropriate funding mechanism for such improvements is provided under the Low Cost Safety Scheme. Grants under this programme have substantially reduced in recent years. Project delivery under this scheme relates to prioritisation based on sufficient relevant accident data, value for money and particularly the goodwill of landowners in facilitating the improvements in the interests of public safety. We have had difficulty in delivering this project based on these criteria at present.”

Item 20 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Tony O’Brien

“That the trees between the Riverdale estate and the Clonboy estate in Bridgetown be cut down.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Tony O’Brien
Seconded by: Cllr. Michael Begley

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“In accordance with Section 37 of the Forestry Act, 1946, requests for trees to be cut down by Clare County can only be considered for issues of

- 1) road safety or
- 2) road construction.

Where such issues are not evident there is provision for any resident or group of residents to address their objective under this legislation through the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (via the local Garda Station) regarding the provisions of a tree felling licence and/or tree felling notice.”

Cllr. Tony O'Brien expressed his dis-satisfaction with this response as many of these trees were on Council property. Hugh McGrath agreed to investigate the matter further and to establish on whose property these trees were on. He advised that he would get a costing for the works.

Cllr. Joe Cooney proposed that a fund would be provided in our budget for cutting trees and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Tony O'Brien and agreed by the members.

Item 21 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Tony O'Brien

“That road signage be erected informing drivers of walkers on the road at Creevroe, Hill Road, and Guarronboy Killaloe.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Tony O'Brien
Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Justification & funding for signage related to walks and trails are determined by audit by National Trails or through proposals by the local administration of Clare Trails, based in Tulla.

This office is in regular contact with Clare Trails representatives and we facilitate them where possible in addressing logistical issues relating to maintenance of the trails within the remit and extent of our resources.”

Item 22 Any Other Business.

Cllr. Joe Cooney offered his congratulations to the Clare Under 21 hurlers on their historic achievement on winning three successive All Ireland Under 21 Hurling titles.

The meeting then concluded.

Kieran O'Donnell
Meetings Administrator

18th September, 2014.