

**Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District held on Wednesday, 15th July, 2015
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. Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer

Vote of sympathy.

At the outset a vote of sympathy was passed in memory of Mary Cooney, mother of Cllr. Joe Cooney.

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 27th May, 2015.

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 27th May, 2015 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

Item 2 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on 26th June, 2015.

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on 26th June, 2015 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. T. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

Item 3 Date for next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on the 16th September, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Hall, Tubber.

Item 4 Declaration of public roads pursuant to Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 – Cnoc Alainn, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare.

Report dated 8th July, 2015 from Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, Planning and Enterprise Development was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that the Statutory Notice under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 of the Council's intention to declare the road in the housing estate of Cnoc Alainn, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare to be a public road was published on 15th May, 2015. The relevant maps were available for public inspection until the 16th June, 2015 and the closing date for submissions was the 30th June, 2015.

The report as circulated was noted by the members having been proposed by Cllr. P. Burke and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

Item 5 Draft Taking in Charge Policy for Private Roads.

The Draft Taking in Charge Policy for Private Roads was circulated with the agenda. The meeting noted that this policy document has been prepared to facilitate the taking into charge by Clare County Council, where appropriate, of roads which heretofore have not been the responsibility of the local authority.

The report as circulated was noted by the members present.

Item 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Burke.

“Calling on Clare County Council to install road markings on the R352 from Cregg X to the county boundary in Whitegate.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Roadmarkings are determined in accordance the Traffic Signs Manual-2010- Chapter 7. On roads of less than 5.3m. in width centrelines are omitted.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

The members expressed their concern about the impact of these guidelines on road safety on rural roads.

Item 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Burke.

“Calling on Clare County Council to provide signage to warn motorists of traffic lights at Mountshannon N.S. particularly as they approach from the Scarriff side.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“There is ample forward sightline visibility from the Scarriff side for these lights. While it is not a requirement to provide warning signage where adequate visibility is available and where the speed limit is 50 kph I will monitor and review the requirement from both directions.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Item 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Burke.

“Calling on Clare County Council to repair /replace the damaged railing around the square in Scarriff.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“There is merit in this request and we will endeavour to arrange for this work at the next available opportunity.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Item 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O’Brien.

“That traffic calming measures be put in place at the junction of the R463 and the R466 on the approach from the Killaloe direction.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Junction improvements have been carried out here in recent years. We will review the road markings and signage and carry out any improvements deemed necessary.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Begley

Item 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O’Brien.

“That Clare County Council carry out road repairs on the Fahy Road, Bridgetown.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The road referred to, the L7126, is a local secondary road which connects Kilbane and Bridgetown. We have recently carried out repairs on this road and will consider it for further improvements in future roadworks programmes providing funding is available.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Item 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllrs. M. Begley and T. O'Brien.

“We are asking the Council to carry out footpath remedial works (particularly dealing with the steps) in O'Briensbridge for health and safety reasons.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“While there are no specific budgetary provisions for footpath repair in the annual roadworks programme, repairs when possible are carried on a priority basis from the limited amount of discretionary funding when available and on a phased basis. It is desirable to provide an alternative to steps to address changes in levels of footpaths and if specific funding was to become available for such measure I would favour addressing this unless more urgent works have to be prioritised.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Item 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That the Council put in place a programme of treatment of Hogweed on the Errina canal walkway from Gillogue Bridge to Plassey (Black) Bridge and that the present excessive growth be cut as the walkway is almost closed.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“This section is the responsibility of Waterways Ireland. I have advised them of this issue.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Item 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That in view of recent tragedies I am requesting the Council to install public lighting at Clonlara (Headrace) bridge.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“At present there is no funding mechanism for such proposals.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

The members requested the Senior Executive Engineer to prioritise this area if funding became available.

Item 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Look for an update on the 3 crosses that were proposed for one way system at Kilkishen, Kilbane and Clonlara.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We have had an exceptional response to these proposals. All submissions are being assessed at present. Once all the information has been collated and reviewed it is intended that any finalised proposals with or without amendments will be put before the Municipal District members for their consideration.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Item 15 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Request Clare County Council to put sign posts at Forge Cross, Kilkishen and Keoghs Cross on the Tulla Scarriff Road to show O’Callaghans Mills, in the interest of emergency services.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Signage on regional (and local primary roads) is determined in accordance with best practice having regard to the Traffic Signs Manual-2010. The regional roads signage was upgraded in recent year in accordance with this guidance.

Furthermore, I am advised that Emergency Vehicles are not reliant on road signage in routing their vehicles.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Item 16 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council outline what footpaths upgrade works are being carried out in the Killaloe Municipal District 2015.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Provided adequate funding is available it is proposed to carry our repairs or upgrading of paths in the following areas.

Tulla, Main Street
Scarriff Main Street
Tuamgraney
Bridgetown
Feakle Main Street and Baurroe Estate
Killaloe – Convent Hill
Crusheen – Tulla Road
Ruan – Village
Kilkishen Main Street\Plunkett Drive
Clonlara – Cloomomerra”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney
Seconded by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Item 17 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council form a lane for traffic turning right up the town of Scariff near Finsa factory as you come from Mountshannon R352.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We are currently reviewing the junction arrangement at this location with the assistance of the Planning Section. While we can consider this proposal as part of this process, it is however not likely that such a proposal is feasible or merited given the existing constraints.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Item 18 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council put a designated crossing point in the village of Tuamgraney on the Killaloe road which would make it safer to cross the regional road and also for traffic calming.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We are currently reviewing the junction arrangement at this location, and will consider this proposal as part of this process.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Item 19 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.

“I am asking for an update in relation to the present situation regarding flood defences at the Flaggy Shore and Aughinish Island and when will works be approved for both of these sites by the O.P.W. and what timescale is proposed for completion of these works.”

Steve Lahiffe, A./Senior Executive Engineer, Storm Remediation Project replied as follows:

“Works are almost complete on the restoration of the sea wall at the beach and the restoration of the sea defences at the U.C.G. premises on the **Flaggy Shore**.

Works are complete for sometime at the sluice and seawall on **Aughinish Island**.

Clare County Council has received approval from the Office Of Public Works to engage consultants for coastal erosion and flood risk management studies for **New Quay** and **Aughinish Island**. This funding is approved on the basis that it is for a coastal erosion and flood risk management study to assess the viability of the full range of options that is to include Stage (i) Preliminary. The scope of the Consultants study must accord with O.P.W.'s guidance for such studies. Standard public procurement procedures must be used to commission the consultants. No commitment is being given by O.P.W. to provide funding for any works that the study may recommend. A Tender is being prepared at present to appoint Consultants. A feasibility study is expected to be completed by January 2016. The report will be submitted to the Office Of Public Works and a decision on funding any proposed works will be made then.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Item 20 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.

“I am asking for an update into the Lough Derg stimulus fund for 2015 and what projects are proposed to be completed this year, and an update on the recent signage scheme around Lough Derg.”

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

“At a meeting of the Lough Derg Marketing Group in January 2015, the following projects were agreed for inclusion in the 2015 Stimulus Fund application to Failte Ireland:

- Lough Derg Canoe Trail – the Clare sites on the Lough Derg Canoe Trail include Killaloe, Scarrif, Mountshannon and Dromaán. Proposals for the sites at Killaloe and Scarrif include the provision of canoe storage racks and signage. These sites are managed by Waterways Ireland. The proposal for the site at Mountshannon includes the upgrade of the existing toilet block to provide shower and toilet facilities and the provision of a canoe storage rack and signage. The proposal for Dromaán includes the construction of a 3 unit shower/toilet block, a holding tank, a canoe storage rack and signage. This project is being co-ordinated by Waterways Ireland.
- Management Plan for Holy Island – Clare County Council recently tendered for the appointment of consultants to prepare a Visitor Management and Sustainable Tourism Development Plan for Holy Island. The deadline for receipt of tenders is Friday, 17th July 2015.
- Castle Marina Refurbishment and cycleway project in Portumna.

The Ballycuggeran Amenity Upgrade project was approved in 2014 and is expected to progress this year. The extension of the footpath from Killaloe to Ballycuggeran has benefited from funding under the Lough Derg Stimulus fund.

The Lough Derg Signage project is being led by Tipperary County Council. The installation of the regional and local route signage is complete. It is anticipated that the signage for the motorway and national routes will be erected by September of this year. Consultation with local businesses will commence later in the year with a view to agreeing use of business signage.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Item 21 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.

“I am asking how the recent allocation of €35,000 towards traffic management and footpaths will be spent in the town of Tulla.”

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“This funding is proposed to facilitate implementation of traffic control in the village, as well as resurfacing works to facilitate parking at a number of locations including the Library and the Graveyard.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Item 22 Any Other Business

- H. McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer advised the members that the duration of the proposed closure of the Bodyke/Tulla Road would be kept to a minimum.
- H. McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer advised the members that there were currently 6 individuals employed under the Gateway Scheme.

The meeting then concluded.

Kieran O’Donnell
Meetings Administrator

16th July, 2015.