

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District held on Wednesday, 25th March, 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
Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer
Mr. Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer
Mr. Gordon Daly, Senior Planner
Mr. Leonard Cleary, Senior Executive Officer

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 21st January, 2015.

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 21st January, 2015 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. M. Begley.

Matters Arising.

- Cllr. P. Hayes requested Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer and Gordon Daly, Senior Planner to look at the issues of parking in Mullaghmore before the start of the summer season.
- Members thanked Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer for the work carried out in response to previous notice of motions.

Item 2 Date for next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on the 27th May, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Item 3 Consideration of draft submission on C.E.D.R.A. Report.

Gordon Daly, Senior Planner outlined the main points included in the Draft submission on the report of the Commission of Economic Development of Rural Areas (C.E.D.R.A.). This Draft Submission had been prepared by the Working Group which was established by the Council, comprising of two representatives from each Municipal District.

The members welcomed the Draft Submission which had been prepared. They felt that the Working Group should consider adding the development of the walking routes throughout the county to this report. They also expressed some concern that the report specifically highlighted the advisory role of Teagasc, when there were local advisors also available to do similar work.

Subject to the Working Group reviewing the points raised above, the members agreed to adopt the Draft Report following the proposal of Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

Item 4 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

At the outset Cllr. P. Hayes proposed that the Schedule of Municipal District Works should be considered by Clare County Council at the April meeting as he felt this was the appropriate forum. In response, Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer outlined that the legal responsibility rested with the Municipal Districts to adopt the Schedule.

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer outlined proposed programme of works in the roads area for Killaloe Municipal District in 2015.

He set out the funding available to him for 2015. This funding of €18 m. was 6.9% higher than the 2014 figure although he explained that this increase would be offset as there would be no additional allocations for C.I.S. Schemes and the figure included an allowance to compensate for the loss of Town Council block grants.

The funding will allow the Council to either surface dress or strengthen 4.46% of the road network in 2015. This is down from 5.24% in 2014 but a figure of 10% is desirable.

The members thanked Tom Tiernan for his report and expressed some concern about the level of funding available and the condition of some local roads in the Municipal District. The members were also disappointed that certain specific roads had not been included in the programme. The reduction in funding from our Own Resources was also highlighted as it was felt that this reduction had not been referred to when the annual budget was adopted by the Council.

Leonard Cleary, S.E.O., Housing presented details of proposed expenditure in 2015 on housing matters. Cllr. T. O'Brien queried whether the expenditure being spent to maintain traveller accommodation houses was sustainable, given the need to maintain many of our social houses. The members agreed that more money needs to be provided to maintain our social housing stock in future years.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2015 was adopted by the members following the proposal of Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

The members agreed to deal with Item No. 10 on the agenda at this time.

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to submit as part of its Capital Programme to the Department of the Environment, an application for the upgrade of heating systems for its properties at Toormore, Ruan, Co. Clare.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke
Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“While there is merit in such a proposal we do not have a funding mechanism for this at present. However, as with the previous works, we are open to providing whatever resources we can make available to facilitate a community led initiative to deliver such works, whether in phases or as a single project.”

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

“Ask Clare County Council to look at the ongoing problem of illegal dumping especially on black spot roads like the Killcornan Road, Kilkishen.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

John O’Malley, A./Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Section replied as follows:

“There is no significant past history of reports to Clare County Council of illegal dumping at Killcornan, Kilkishen. The last report was in June 2014, which was one about an illegal encampment. When investigated, there was no waste present. No further complaints about this area have been received since.

Past complaints in this area date back to 2012 and 2013.

In general terms, every complaint received is acted upon as soon as possible and investigated. If the public have details about specific dumping in this area Clare County Council asks that contact be made with the Environment Section of Clare County Council for investigation.”

Cllr. J. Cooney felt that the current level of illegal dumping in the county was unacceptable and the Council needed to take action against offenders. This view was supported by the members.

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

“In the interest of health and safety that works would be carried out on the road outside Kilkishen school. Paths and surface are in need of repair.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The road L7008 is a local secondary road serving Kilkishen National School. This road is not included in the proposals for the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works. Improvements to roads other than ongoing maintenance are prioritised in accordance with Departmental guidelines.

The paths in this area are generally in good repair. There are some minor repairs\improvements that do require addressing at the next opportunity. However some of these relate to private contractor works or works on behalf of by other utilities\ statutory bodies and should be referred accordingly.”

Item 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan.

“Clare County Council to give an up-date on the Railway Bridge at Ballycar and the costing to Clare County Council on the signage used.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Over €15,000 has been expended to date on procuring & implementation of this signage scheme. In the event that these measures need to be continued there will also be an ongoing maintenance and replacement cost.”

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan requested an update on the Railway Bridge at Ballycar and Hugh McGrath, S.E.E. agreed to request an update from Tom Tiernan, S.E. and to circulate his response to the elected members.

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to tidy up the area where the Bottle Banks are located outside the G.A.A. grounds in Whitegate by laying concrete under same.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Provided any necessary legal requirements with landowners can be addressed we will pursue such improvements with the co-operation of the Environment Section.”

Item 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Burke.

“Calling on Clare County Council to consider constructing a kerbed footpath in Ogonnelloe from the Church to the National School following on from the great work undertaken by local volunteers.”

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

Robert Burns, A./Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“A submission was made to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (D.E.C.L.G.) in September 2012 seeking funding for the upgrade of heating systems in 15 properties and an extensive upgrade of 3 older properties at Toormore, Ruan, Co. Clare. The total cost was estimated at €246,300. However, the scheme did not obtain approval or funding from the D.E.C.L.G. for this scheme. The Housing section are currently reviewing and assessing potential remedial works schemes for 2015 and a renewed application for funding will be made in the coming weeks with respect to the Toormore, Ruan heating upgrade scheme.”

Item 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Joe Cooney.

“That Clare County Council carry out resurfacing on the Blakemount Road, Tubber and provide a parking area along the side of the road near the graveyard.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The road referred to is the L-5001 connecting Tubber and Ruan. It is accepted that this road would benefit from upgrading. However, it is not included in the proposals for the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works. Improvements to roads other than ongoing maintenance are prioritised in accordance with Departmental guidelines. This road will be considered for upgrading in future annual programmes.

Provision of roadside parking in a structured manner is not feasible within the constraints of the existing road. Structured parking outside of this would only be possible through initiatives led and resourced by the community and patrons of the graveyard, and would be subject to planning considerations.”

Item 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Joe Cooney.

“That Clare County Council erect signage at Nash Cross on the O’Callaghan’s Mills/Kilkishen road to alert drivers of oncoming traffic from the Broadford road.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney
Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“It is accepted that signage could be upgraded at this location. The junction will be reviewed with a view to carrying out improvements.”

Item 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Joe Cooney.

“That Clare County Council give an up to date report on the Tulla Parking and Traffic Management Plan.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Proposals are being developed to advance an updated Traffic Management Plan for Tulla. Once a draft is finalised it is intended to consult with the relevant authorities and business groups before finalising a proposal.”

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

“I propose that Clare County Council call on Bus Eireann to install bus shelters in Crusheen Village as there is no shelter available presently.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Provision of Bus Shelters is a matter for Bus Eireann. We are happy to discuss any proposals they may have in this regard once such proposals are submitted, having consideration for the necessary planning requirements.”

It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to Bus Éireann and Cllr. T. O'Brien was also requested to raise these issues with Bus Éireann officials if he had an opportunity to do so.

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

“I am asking that the flooding problem on the N 67 at Munnia New Quay be resolved as soon as possible. This is a continuous problem and a hazard on this very busy road.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The N67 is maintained by Clare County Council on behalf of the National Roads Authority. The issue relates to flooding via a Turlough, Ballyvelaghan Lough.

The matter can be referred to the N.R.A. for consideration for funding.”

Item 16 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Hayes.

“I am proposing that new signage be put in place on the approach roads to Scariff directing the public to the Town Centre in order to support the business of the town.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“A review of the overall ‘gateway’ treatment for Scarriff is currently underway in conjunction with Planning. It is anticipated that once this is progressed it will provide for improvements to address this issue.”

Item 17 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Tony O'Brien.

“That a general operative be employed full time in Killaloe town from May until the end of August.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“For the past number of years 2 no. staff have been assigned to the Killaloe & Ballycuggeran area. While these personnel are effectively based here full time they are also required to supplement the operational area from time to time to facilitate certain operations requiring additional manpower or for cover.”

Item 18 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Tony O’Brien.

“That signage and traffic calming measures be put in place on the R466 coming from Broadford on the approach to the junction with Kilbane to slow traffic down and warn of a dangerous junction ahead.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Begley

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“It is accepted that this junction could be improved. Negotiations with the critical landowners to facilitate the required improvements were unsuccessful. Meaningful improvements can only be progressed by geometrical changes to provide sightlines or by limiting or preventing access\egress. This measure is to be considered.”

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

“That signage be erected in Killaloe town area encouraging people to poop the scoop and warning of the fines and penalties for allowing dog fouling.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

John O’Malley, A./Senior Engineer replied as follows:

“A significant number of signs have been erected in the Killaloe area over the past number of years. Where evidence is provided to the Environment Section of Clare County Council of breaches, consideration will be given to prosecuting offending dog-owners. The difficulty in carrying forward prosecutions is that the evidence required by a court to secure prosecution is extremely difficult to obtain. It requires a citizen to witness the offence and be prepared to state this under oath in court.”

Item 20 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley.

“That repairs be carried out on the L-30181, Coolycasey.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The L30181 (Cooleycasey) is a Local Tertiary cul-de-sac off the L3018 a Local Primary route. The road serves a number of residential dwellings up a steep well drained hill.

We will continue to maintain the road within the limitations of our resources.

The road would benefit from improvements but due to lack of funding and the nature of this road it is not likely to get priority in any roadworks programmes in the near future.

An application was considered for Community Involvement Scheme (C.I.S.) in the past year but was not ultimately submitted.”

Item 21 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley.

“That Clare County Council open communications with Limerick City and County Council to extend the Smarter Travel programme to provide a direct walk/cycleway from car park at Gillogue to UL campus.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We will explore this option at the next opportunity.”

Item 22 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley.

“That repairs be carried out on the Rahena More/Rahena Beg road, Ogonnelloe.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The L-8194 is a local Secondary Road connecting the R463 with Ballylanaghan.

We will continue to maintain this road within the limitations of our resources.”

Item 23 Any Other Business

- Cllr. P. Burke proposed that Irish Water be requested to attend the next Municipal District meeting at 2:00 p.m. to discuss their plans to source a new water supply for the Eastern and Midlands region of the country.
- Cllr. T. O'Brien asked for a follow up date on Pilot Project for Riverdale Estate, Bridgetown – are Clare County Council responsible for waste water treatment.

The meeting then concluded.

Kieran O'Donnell
Meetings Administrator

27th March, 2015.