

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District held on Wednesday, 18th September 2019 at 3.00 p.m. in the offices of Killaloe Municipal District, Mountshannon Road, Scarriff.

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

Officials: Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service
Mr. Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 17th July 2019.

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meetings held on 17th July 2019 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan.

Item 2 Matters Arising:

Cllr. P. Hayes proposed a vote of sympathy to Anne Haugh on the death of her father, Matthew Haugh and this was seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

Cllr. J. Cooney requested an update on the ongoing works in Scarriff town. Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer advised that the brick paving works would finish later in the week with the overlay of the roads to be completed within 2/3 weeks and this would be followed by the lining of the road surface. All works were expected to be completed by Mid October. Cllr. J. Cooney welcomed the progress made on the works.

Cllr. T. O'Brien expressed his concern at a recent decision of An Bord Pleanala following an appeal against a grant of planning permission by Clare County Council for a development for which Irish Water had approved the necessary connections to the water services infrastructure. However, the Bord determined that this development should only proceed if improvements were made to the Ballina Treatment Plant. Anne Haugh, Director of Services also added that Clare County Council would have concerns if future development was not permitted in Killaloe as there was a need for additional housing in that area.

Item 3 Set date for next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 6th November, 2019 at 3 p.m.

Item 4 Set date for Budget meeting.

It was agreed that the Budget meeting will take place on Wednesday, 6th November, 2019 at 2.30 p.m.

Item 5 Update on Holy Island Project – Presentation from Rural Directorate.

Deirdre O'Shea, A/Head of Tourism and Joan Tarmey A/Tourism Officer attended for this presentation with apologies from Leonard Cleary, Director of Services who was unable to attend. They outlined the objectives of the project which was to conserve Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) as a significant historical and cultural site and to expand its attractiveness as a tourism destination. A fund of €1.2 million was available to advance the detailed design of the proposal. The Council was currently engaging with its partners on the project and it is hoped that a Consultancy Design Team would be appointed by Q4 2019 and the project would be ready to go for planning permission in Q1 2021.

Cllr. P Burke sought clarification on whether the available budget would suffice to carry out the detailed design of the works and Deirdre O'Shea confirmed that the budget was sufficient based on the information currently available to them. The members welcomed the progress made to date and highlighted the importance of this project to the future of tourism in East Clare.

Item 6 Correspondence from Irish Water

Correspondence from Irish Water had been circulated with the agenda in which they had declined the invitation to attend a meeting of Killaloe MD as they did not have the resources to attend Council or Municipal District meetings.

The members expressed their disappointment with the response and highlighted the need for a Capital Water Services Investment Plan for the region. They acknowledged that Irish Water were available to meet with members at clinics but felt that it was important also that Irish Water would meet with them as a group. Cllr. J. Cooney proposed that all members of Killaloe MD should meet Irish Water as a group, at the next clinic and request an update on capital projects in the region. This was agreed by the members and Anne Haugh advised them to let Irish Water know in advance that they were attending and also to give them details of areas of concern so that Irish Water would have an update for them at the clinic. The members noted that the next clinic was scheduled for November and they requested

Anne Haugh to contact Water Services to see if the clinic could be brought forward to October.

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

"Calling on Clare County Council to provide an update on the proposed Killaloe bypass and bridge crossing."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke
Seconded by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

"An update has been sought from the Capital Projects Department."

While noting that the report from the Capital Projects Department had not been received, Cllr. P. Burke expressed some concern that progress on the project appeared to be slower than originally anticipated. Cllr. T. O'Brien was satisfied from the information that he had received that the project was proceeding as planned and that the project would be delivered within the proposed timescales.

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

"Calling on Clare County Council to install disabled access to the newly constructed footpath leading to the Harbour at the one way street in Mountshannon."

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

"An assessment will be carried out of the footpath along the L-4034, Harbour Rd. Where required, access points will be adjusted to meet current guidelines for accessibility."

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

"Calling on Clare County Council to install traffic calming measures on the R352 as you enter the village of Whitegate, adjacent to the GAA grounds, in the interest of road safety."

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

"A traffic volume and speed survey will be carried out on the approach to Whitegate to determine the volume and speed of vehicles. This will determine which further course of action is required."

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

"That Clare County Council immediately repair and make operable the storm water drainage gullies in the Millstream Housing Estate, Killaloe."

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

"Killaloe Municipal District office have been engaging with a private contractor in relation to resolving some drainage issues arising from recent works within the estate. I aim to have a resolution to the issue before the winter season commences"

Item 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

“That resurfacing works and improved public lighting be carried out at Carrig’s Lane Killaloe.”

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

“Carrig’s Lane is not currently on the roadworks programme. Clare County Council currently has a tender advertised for a multidisciplinary team, the Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan. This plan will involve public consultation and following completion, outline a number of actions aimed at improving access within both towns. It would be preferable to allow this report be completed before advancing individual projects which ultimately may not fit the final recommendations of the plan. Killaloe Municipal District Office is aware of the works required at Carrigs Lane and will be highlighting them to the team once appointed.”

Cllr. T. O’Brien expressed his disappointment with this response and requested Clare County Council to include these works as part of the proposed upcoming roads contract involving other areas in Killaloe town.

Item 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O’Brien.

“That two new public lights be installed at the National School and at the Church in Bridgetown.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien
Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’ Callaghan

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

“Killaloe Municipal District Office has requested a survey of the existing lighting in the vicinity of the Church and school in Bridgetown. The report produced following this survey will indicate how best to proceed in relation to the issue.”

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

“That Clare County Council put traffic calming measures in the village of Kilkishen in the interest of road safety.”

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

“A traffic volume and speed survey will be carried out in the village of Kilkishen to determine the volume and speed of vehicles. The outcome of this survey will determine what further measures may be required.”

Item 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council give a update on progress for the new footpath on the Doonane Road out to the soccer club entrance as land is now available for same.”

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

“A survey of the above location will be carried out to determine what is possible along this stretch of road. This will lead to a design and costing of works.

Once this is complete Killaloe Municipal District Office will be in a position to seek funding for said works.”

Cllr. J. Cooney welcomed the response but requested a more definitive timescale. Tom Mellett advised that it was planned to complete the survey in late October with the design and

costings to be completed before the end of the year so that it would be ready for funding consideration under the 2020 Roadworks Programme.

Item 15 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

."That Clare County Council carry out works at Ducey's cross on the R352 to improve sight lines in the Scarriff direction".

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

"Sightlines towards Scarriff from this junction are limited.

In order achieve minimum sight distances the boundary walls will need to be set back on this side of the junction. Currently these walls are privately owned. Any works carried out will be subject to resource constraints".

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

"I am asking that improvement works be carried out at Crannagher Junction, Clooney to improve the sight lines exiting onto the R352, This is an extremely dangerous junction with very poor sight lines in both directions.

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

"Visibility in both directions along the R352 at this junction is limited. A combination of hedgecutting, improved signage and line markings are required to improve this situation.

In order achieve minimum sight distances the boundary walls will need to be set back on each side of the junction. Currently these walls are privately owned. Killaloe Municipal District Office does not currently have the resources to carry out this work.”

Following a request from the members, Tom Mellett agreed to advance the design and costing of the required works to this junction.

Item 17 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P Hayes.

“I am asking that improvement works be carried out on the junction on the Moymore road joining the Miltown Newgrove road, sight lines are extremely poor at this junction.

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

“Visibility in the southern direction is limited. A combination of hedgecutting, improved signage and line markings are required to improve this situation.

Killaloe Municipal District Office will carry out these works once resources allow.”

Item 18 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P Hayes.

“I am asking that Clare Co. Council engage with the owners of vacant premises in the town of Tulla to access the potential use of these sites and how they can be best developed in the future.”

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

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows

An update has been sought from the Planning Department.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested the Rural, Housing and Planning Directorates to come together to try and resolve the vacant property issues in the town. Anne Haugh advised that this work was already commenced and the Council were in the information gathering stage using a number of towns and villages in East Clare, including Tulla as pilot. She identified some of the challenges that can be encountered in addressing vacant properties including title, building standards, cost etc.

Item 19 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Ask this Council for an update on the drainage works been done between Polough Bridge and Belvoir Bridge.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

“Works to open up the Owengraney/Ratty River commenced 4th September and are due for completion this week. The work involves removing vegetation along approx. 2.4km of the river with the aim of reducing flood risks upstream.

The works are carried out with the support of local landowners and following consultation with National Parks and Wildlife and Fisheries Ireland.”

Cllr. A O’Callaghan advised that the works being undertaken were causing additional flooding around Polough Lake and that works were also required at this location. Cllr. J. Cooney advised that the works undertaken to date had helped to reduce flooding in the Broadford/Mills area but additional works were required downstream. Tom Mellett advised that he was hoping to extend current works as far as Ballymulcashel Lake.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested details of the proposed drainage works at River Graney/Scarriff River. Tom Mellett advised that resources weren’t available to complete these works this year. Cllr. P. Hayes requested that any unspent monies in 2019 be ring fenced for 2020 along with any additional funding set aside in 2020.

Item 20 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Ask this Council for an update on the proposed new water main from Sorreney to Derra that was scheduled to start last June.”

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

Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows

“A revised timeline for this project has been requested from Irish Water.”

Item 21 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Ask this Council for the number of private group water schemes in the Killaloe MD area and for details of any work being carried out on these schemes and to confirm if there are any plans to get them taken over.”

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

Michael McNamara, Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

“In Killaloe MD, there are approx 59 private group water schemes with 24 public group water schemes. Private Group Water Schemes are schemes which have their own source and treatment with public group water schemes supplied off the public water network.

The majority of Private GWS’s in East Clare comprise of less than 5 connections. Works have been just completed on the Bodyke GWS as a commitment from last year’s funding. As we are awaiting this year’s funding no further works are currently in place with applications for funding only received from 2no. private GWS’s. Irish Water are currently not taking in charge private GWS’s.

Of the 24 public group water schemes, Clare County Council have issued taking in charge documentation to a number of schemes with a view to progressing applications but currently await correspondence from these schemes.

To date this year Clare County Council has completed the taking in charge of 6 no. GWS’s with another 4 submissions in progress.”

22. Any other business.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested the MD office to contact Eir to remove or replace and dangerous poles in the MD area.

The members highlighted the concerns of the local community about the colour scheme being used for the new social houses being constructed in Feakle. Anne Haugh advised that the colour scheme proposed for these houses had been prepared by the architects and it was important to wait until the painting of the development was fully complete before finalising views on the colour scheme. The members felt that it may be too late at that stage to change the colour of the scheme.

Cllr. J. Cooney requested an update on the public lighting in the new car park in Tulla and Tom Mellett advised that progress on the issue was being made.

The meeting then concluded.

Kieran O'Donnell
Meetings Administrator.

20th September, 2019.