

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022 at 3.15pm

Meeting held in Council Chamber, Áras Chontae an Chláir

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

Officials: Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service
Mr. Morgan Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer

Members of the media attended

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Cooney, chaired the meeting.

Cllr. J. Cooney opened the meeting, he congratulated Scarriff Ogonnelloe Camogie Club on winning the Senior Munster Championship and it was proposed and agreed a letter of congratulations be sent to the club. Cllr. J. Cooney and the other members congratulated St. Joseph’s Secondary School, Tulla on their recent achievement of reaching the Harty Cup Final and wished them the best of luck on their next day out.

A vote of sympathy was expressed to the Noonan family, Sixmilebridge and O’Callaghan’s Mills on the death of Pat Noonan, may he rest in peace.

Members sought clarification on remote access to MD meetings, A. Haugh replied there may be a need for a blended approach and procedures will be considered by the Corporate Policy Group.

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting, held on 10th November, 2021.

The minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 10th November, 2021 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. Tony O’Brien and seconded by Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan.

Item 2 Minutes of Killaloe MD Budget Meeting, held on 10th November, 2021.

The minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 10th November, 2021 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. P. Burke and seconded by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

Item 3 Matters Arising.

No items raised.

Item 3 Set date for next Killaloe MD meeting

It was agreed the next Killaloe MD meeting be provisionally arranged for Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022.

Item 4 Town/Village Paint Scheme 2022 – Selection of town/village in Killaloe MD.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney, seconded by Cllr. T. O’Brien and agreed by the members that Broadford be put forward for this scheme. Cllr. J. Cooney proposed and members agreed that upon completion of works in Broadford, unspent funds, if any, be advanced to Church Street, Tulla.

Item 5. Section 11 Roads Act 1993 (as amended) - Declaration of Public Roads at Dergview Estate, Scarriff.

Report dated 25th January, 2022 prepared by Kieran O’Donnell, Administrative Officer, Planning Department, was circulated with the Agenda. The report states it is proposed to declare roads in Dergview, Scarriff to be public roads. The Statutory Notice to this effect was published and relevant maps were available for public inspection until 24th December, 2021 and the closing date for submissions was 17th January, 2022. No submissions were received from the public during this period.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. P. Burke & Cllr. P. Hayes and agreed by the members present:- “Notice having been served pursuant to Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended), Clare County Council approves, pursuant to the powers vested on it under Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, the declaration of the roads in the following estate to be public roads:-

- Dergview, Scarriff

Subject to the conditions set out in the notice and map served on the members dated 25th January, 2022.

Item 6 RRDF Allocation for Scarriff

M. Lahiffe provided an update on the project and confirmed the allocation of €524,000. He acknowledged the role of Scarriff Town Team, Scarriff Community Council and the councillors in developing a multi-service innovation and engagement hub and improved public realm for the Market Square as well as the development of a town car park. It is the Councils intention to progress the project and be in a position to apply for future Category 1 funding in February 2023. The members welcomed this news and commented on the importance of the working hub for the local economy.

At the request of Cllr. O'Brien it was agreed to bring forward Notices of Motion No. 11 & No. 12 as he may be required to leave meeting early.

Item 11 Notice of Motion from Cllr. T. O'Brien

“That the pedestrian crossings in Killaloe be upgraded and made more visible and a controlled crossing (lights) replace the existing crossing on Abbey Street.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“This pedestrian crossing was installed on Abbey Street as part of the Aldi store planning permission. A Traffic Impact Assessment on the road network was carried out during the planning process and this examined existing and proposed vehicular and pedestrian movements on the public road network in the vicinity of the store. Based on the evidence and the assessments, it was determined that the crossing that is insitu, rather than a signalised crossing, is the most appropriate type of crossing for this location. I can confirm that this crossing is in fact a controlled crossing with both belisha beacons and additional flashing amber signal lights, which alert oncoming traffic both during the daytime and at night. There is a legal obligation on vehicles and cyclists to give way if pedestrians are using this crossing.”

Cllr. T. O'Brien acknowledged reply, he added the road is used by many to avoid traffic lights at the bridge and he is of the view a controlled crossing would be more appropriate. He also referred to the need to upgrade/repaint the crossing on the main Limerick Road. N. Madden advised the pedestrian crossings in Killaloe are included as part of this year's line marking programme, in addition these crossings are included in the Killaloe/Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility plan. Cllr. T. O'Brien acknowledged the plan may bring about improvements to these locations and added the matter needs more immediate attention.

12. Notice of Motion from Cllr. T. O'Brien

“That a roster for the road sweeper operating in the MD be worked out so as that it can be advertised to local residents and help to keep as much as possible streets and roads clear.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“The Killaloe Municipal District has been assigned the use of the road sweeper for three days out of each week. In order to ensure that the full municipal district receives attention, the sweeper is assigned to a different geographical area within the district on each of those three days. The sweeper is sent to locations where it is needed at that time and this need changes on a continuous basis. The sweeper is often required in rural settings when the municipal district is undertaking road works or drainage works and where there may be no houses located nearby. Alternatively, it may be required at short notice within a town or village centre or within a housing development. The extent and varied nature of works and locations where the road sweeper is required is so diverse, it is not possible to roster or to set a specific schedule for the road sweeper. The Killaloe Municipal District endeavours to keep streets and roads clean in so far as is practicably possible and when necessary, local residents will be alerted if the road sweeper requires access.”

Cllr. J. Cooney asked if it could be advertised through groups such as Tidy Towns Committees through social media outlets.

Cllr. T. O'Brien left meeting.

Item 7 Notices of Motion from Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

“Ask this MD to carry out roadside works on the L3174 Drumline, where some of the road has been lost to the verge.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“This road is not on the current roads works programme but may be considered for inclusion in a future roadworks programme. However, the MD has examined the section of road in question and can confirm that essential maintenance will be carried out throughout the year, as required. As some of the Drumline area is in the Shannon Municipal District, I can confirm that I have referred this request to the Senior Executive Engineer in the Shannon MD also.”

Item 8 Notices of Motion from Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

“Ask this MD to carry out road works on the Cloonloun Road, East Clare Way as it is a state of disrepair.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“This road is not on the current roads works programme but may be considered for inclusion in a future roadworks programme. In the meantime, the Killaloe Municipal District undertakes to carry out essential maintenance on this road in 2022.”

It was agreed to combine Item 9 & Item 16 for Discussion

Item 9 Notices of Motion from Cllr. J. Cooney

“That Clare County Council replace the main footpath in O'Reilly Park, Tulla in conjunction with the footpath upgrade for the town of Tulla in the interest of safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“The footpath upgrade works for the town of Tulla are being funded by a grant awarded by the Department of Transport as part of the Active Travel scheme. The allocation granted to Clare County Council for this project does not include the footpaths in O'Reilly Park. This grant will go so far as to allow Clare County Council to address the worst affected sections of footpath along the primary streets within the town. However, Clare County Council is confident that these works will not only improve safety for pedestrians, but they will also enhance the visual appeal of Tulla. The Killaloe Municipal District does not currently have funding to carry out footpath improvement works in O'Reilly Park but should such funding become available in the future, Clare County Council will consider O'Reilly Park for footpath upgrade works.”

Item 16 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Hayes

“I am asking for an update into the proposed repair of footpaths in Tulla and also details of new footpaths to be put in place.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“The footpath upgrade works for the town of Tulla are being funded by a grant awarded by the Department of Transport as part of the Active Travel scheme. This grant will permit Clare County Council to carry out necessary improvements and will remedy the most damaged sections of footpath within the town. Repair works will be carried out on Main Street, Church Street and also from the courthouse to beyond the post office and the adjacent commercial premises. The replacement surface will generally be equivalent to what is already insitu, i.e. where tarmac footpaths are currently present, the replaced sections will also be tarmac. In certain locations it will be necessary to provide a concrete surface, but in general, Clare County Council will be replacing like-for-like.

The Active Travel fund is also enabling Clare County Council to provide a section of new footpath along the R462 from the junction of the Doonane Road towards the town centre, to address an area where no footpath currently exists. Separately, the Active Travel fund has awarded Clare County Council a grant to provide a new footpath from the town as far as Tulla Athletics Club, which will greatly improve the safety for pedestrians accessing these facilities. The beginning of this new footpath will tie-in with the upgraded footpath along that road. A contract has been awarded for the upcoming footpath improvement works project and it is expected that these works will commence in early February.”

Cllr. Cooney welcomed the reply but expressed dissatisfaction that O’Reilly Park is not included in current phase. Cllr. P. Hayes queried if other funding sources such as development levies or IPB funding could be made available for O’Reilly Park. M. Lahiffe advised the council would examine funding avenues for paths in O’Reilly Park in 2022.

Item 10 Notice of Motion from Cllr. J. Cooney

“That Clare County Council put safety barriers at Killaderry on the main Broadford/Sixmilebridge road as section of side are very dangerous.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“Following an assessment of this area by the Killaloe Municipal District, I can confirm that works will be carried out to raise the roadside embankments where practicable. The municipal district will also provide reflective roadside verge delineator posts where necessary, which will complement the existing line markings on this road. The municipal district does not have the funding to provide crash barrier, but this can be considered in the future, should funding become available. However, it is envisaged that the proposals as outlined above will assist in providing verge side protection and guidance to motorists.”

Item 13 Notices of Motion from Cllr. P. Burke

“Following the successful purchase of the Rectory in Mountshannon, I am calling on Clare County Council to provide an update progress report on the development of the Holy Island project and the plans going forward.“

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Reply from Joan Tarmey, Tourism Officer:

“Following purchase of the Old Rectory by Clare Co Council in October 2021, the Tourism Department is making steady progress on the Inis Cealtra project to re-purpose and refurbish the Old Rectory site in Mountshannon into a new visitor centre. Working closely with the Design Team, a series of works at the Old Rectory site is underway/planned to inform the detailed design stage including an Asbestos survey, Opening Up works and Site investigations. These works are expected to be completed by March, which should enable statutory approvals by Q2 2022 (Fire Cert, DAC). Work on concept interpretation and branding is also continuing apace. Initial detailed design has commenced and on completion of Opening Up Works and Site Investigation, it is expected that detailed design will be completed by Q3. Following this, a tender procurement process will be undertaken and it is expected to have the successful Contractor selected by Q4 2022. Construction on site will then commence with a view to being in a position to have the building operational by Q2/Q3 2023.”

Cllr. P. Burke requested an update on the Holy Island Project and Rectory be provided to the Killaloe MD members.

Item 14 Notices of Motion from Cllr. P. Burke

“Calling on the Killaloe MD office to provide the number of letters sent to landowners reminding of their responsibility with regard to hedgecutting since last September and what response if any the Council got to these letters. “

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“Between September 2021 and December 2021, one hundred and thirty five letters have been sent by the Killaloe Municipal District to land owners/occupiers outlining their obligations under S70 of the Roads Act 1993 and requesting that overgrown vegetation be cut where required. Where issues persisted and the landowner/occupier failed to act, follow-up letters and/or notices were issued by this office. A number of landowners did revert to the municipal district upon

receipt of the letters and informed the office that hedgecutting had been carried out or was scheduled to take place. Unfortunately, not all landowners or occupiers who were requested to liaise with the municipal district office did so and despite the best efforts of the municipal district, there remains a number of landowners/occupiers in the area who have failed in their legal and moral obligations to attend to overgrown vegetation and hedges.”

Cllr. P. Burke asked if landowners who have ignored notices will avoid follow up by the council as the end of the season for cutting trees/hedges approaches? N. Madden replied non-compliant landowners will be pursued under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 and this could result in the council following through legal processes under the Act. N. Madden added that the council have also been in frequent communication with Coillte regarding their sites. Cllr. J. Cooney acknowledged work carried out by many landowners and agreed that council should pursue those who do not comply.

Item 15 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Hayes

“I propose that speed limits be put in place in the village of Killanena, this is a very busy regional road with a number of very dangerous exits in this section of road.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“Clare County Council undertook a countywide speed limit review in recent years, taking account of submissions from the public following a public consultation process. The outcome of this speed limit review came into effect in the county in mid-2019. Clare County Council will consider the location in question during the next countywide speed limit review.”

Following a request from Cllr. P. Hayes, N. Madden agreed a speed survey will be arranged in advance of the countywide speed limit review.

Item 17 Any other business.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan & Cllr. J. Cooney complimented the works carried out under the Active Travel Scheme in Kilmurry.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan asked if the council could look at Maigh Dara housing estate which has been taken in charge by Clare County Council but remains unfinished.

Cllr. P. Hayes queried if the council could examine over hanging trees on the Tulla to Gort Road, N. Madden replied Killaloe MD met with Coillte regarding the site and the job is now completed.

In reply to Cllr. P. Haye’s request that the footpath at Clooney be extended, N. Madden advised the Council will commence works on this section of path in February, 2022.

Cllr. P. Burke asked for update on the provision of a footpath at bottom of Raheen Hill, M. Lahiffe advised the 2022 NTA funding application was unsuccessful but the project may qualify next year.

The meeting then concluded.

Morgan Lahiffe

A/ Senior Executive Officer

4th February, 2022