

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District
held on Wednesday, 21st September, 2022 at 11.00am
Meeting held in Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir

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

Officials: Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service
Mr. Morgan Lahiffe, Acting Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer

Members of the media attended

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan chaired the meeting.

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held on 20th July 2022

The Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 20th July 2022 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. Joe Cooney and seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes.

Item 2 Matters Arising

Re. Item 9, Cllr T O’ Brien requested an update on the meeting of all relevant bodies in Killaloe to organize a major clean up and facelift of the lower end of the town and the link bridge between Killaloe and Ballina. M Lahiffe gave an update to the meeting.

Re Item 11, Cllr J Cooney requested an update on the situation regarding the provision of a carpark in Scariff town. M Lahiffe gave an update to the meeting.

Re Item 16, Cllr P Hayes requested an update on the speed control measures on the Tulla road in Crusheen village. D Troy gave an update to the meeting indicating an Active Travel submission would be made.

Item 3 Set date for next meeting

It was agreed the next Killaloe MD meeting be provisionally arranged for Wednesday 16th November, 2022 in the Killaloe MD Offices, Scarriff.

Item 4 Notice of Motion from Cllr. A. O'Callaghan:-

“Ask the MD to consider putting in speed ramps at school in Kilkishen as a safety measure for school goers and for the playground”.

Proposed by Cllr. A O' Callaghan

Seconded by Cllr. Cllr P Hayes

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer

“ Kilkishen National School and Kilkishen Playground are located within the existing 50km/h speed limit on the L7088. A speed survey was undertaken in 2020 and this did not reveal significant speeding issues at that time. Pedestrian safety improvements have been undertaken in recent years in terms of controlled pedestrian crossings and footpath provision.

Killaloe Municipal District will commit to undertaking a new speed survey at this location to establish if speed limit is being significantly exceeded. Based on the results of the survey, and in consultation with An Garda Síochána, this location could be considered for submission for Low-Cost Safety Improvement funding for 2023. If funding was granted, to implement any traffic calming measures, including the construction of ramps and associated signage, the Local Authority is required to comply with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, which includes a public consultation process“.

Cllr A O' Callaghan stated his desire for speed ramps at the school as the flashing signs are only a temporary solution. He indicated safety was a priority, the pedestrian crossing is complete but more works are required. Cllr J Cooney complimented the works already completed but indicated that speed is a concern. Cllr J Cooney stated perhaps An Garda Siochana should be used more often. Cllr P Burke stated that ramps were evident in other areas.

Item 5 Notice of Motion from Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

“Ask the MD to get the hedge cutters out on the roads immediately as some junctions and roads needs to be cut in the interest of safety.

Proposed by Cllr. A O' Callaghan

Seconded by Cllr. J Cooney

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“Kilkishen National School and Kilkishen Playground are located within the existing 50km/h speed limit on the L7088. A speed survey was undertaken in 2020 and this did not reveal significant speeding issues at that time. Pedestrian safety improvements have been undertaken in recent years in terms of controlled pedestrian crossings and footpath provision.

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Cllr O Callaghan asked were contractors available to the MD. He asked if engaged were they carrying out the works in a timely manner. Cllr A O’ Callaghan indicated that he felt hedge cutting in the MD was falling behind. Cllr J Cooney asked about local roads. He highlighted work completed by some landowners, but some landowners are falling behind in completing hedge cutting. Cllr J Cooney said landowners needed to be forced to do the work required. Cllr P Burke said he had to acknowledge the work completed by landowners locally. Cllr P Hayes highlighted that tree limbing needs to be introduced apart from hedge cutting. Cllr P Hayes asked could we enforce Section 70.

Derek Troy replied indicating that Section 70 would be used to further the process.

Item 6 Notice of Motion from Cllr. T. O’ Brien

“That the council that traffic calming measures be put in place to slow traffic down between the tennis club and the Benson box factory in Killaloe”.

Proposed by Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by Cllr. P Burke

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“The road section between the Tennis Club and the Benson Box Factory is located within the existing 50km/h speed limit on the L3084. There are housing estate entrances, a crèche and playground at this location which results in a large volume of both vehicular and pedestrian movements. Killaloe Municipal District will commit to undertaking a speed survey at this location to establish if speed limit is being exceeded. Based on the results of the survey, and in consultation with An Garda Síochána, this location could be considered for submission for Low-Cost Safety Improvement funding for 2023. If funding was granted, to implement any traffic calming measures, including the construction of ramps and associated signage, the Local Authority is required to comply with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, which includes a public consultation process.”.

Cllr O'Brien pointed out how busy the area is due to many activities happening and the knock-on effect for the residents of New Street. Derek Troy clarified that speed data is taken over a 24-hour period and that this would be carried out over 3 to 4 days.

Item 7 Notice of Motion from Cllr. T. O'Brien

“That electric charging points for cars be installed as a matter of urgency in Killaloe”.

Proposed by Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes

Reply from Anne O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation:

“The CCMA has identified the Local Authority's role in the development of the EV charge point infrastructure beginning with the development of an EV and EV Charge Point (EVCP) strategy & to assess the optimum locations for public EVCPs within its county boundaries.

The Council is currently developing an EV and EV Charging Point strategy. Through the development of the EV & EVCP Strategy for County Clare an assessment of the need for the infrastructure will be carried out. This will include mapping existing charger locations, examining current usage, modelling likely demand, drafting design for chargers & how the rollout should be achieved. This strategy will be guided & informed by the Department of Transport's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy 2022 -2025 which has been out for public consultation & will be published later in 2022.

Engagement with stakeholders including ESB Networks, EV charging companies, Retail Providers, Car Park Owners, etc. is required and this has commenced.

In parallel with this it is anticipated that a small scale pilot project for the installation of on street chargers will commence in 2022 subject to funding availability. A suitable location for an EV charger in existing public car park locations in Killaloe is presently under investigation with ESB Networks. The timeline for installation subject to a public procurement process is Q1 2023 ”.

Cllr O Brien stated that electric vehicles were a hugely important part of the future. Cllr O’ Brien is happy that Killaloe is being looked at as a pilot scheme. He indicated several car parks should be suitable and hope for more than one charging point. Cllr P Hayes stated that KMD were far behind where we should be in relation to charging points and this was an urgent matter going forward. Cllr P Burke stated that the responsibility lies with the Local Authority to supply the charging points.

Item 8 Notice of Motion from Cllr. J Cooney

“Ask the MD to get the hedge cutters out on the roads immediately as some junctions and roads needs to be cut in the interest of safety.

(Response as per Item 5)

Item 9 Notice of Motion from Cllr. J. Cooney:-

“That Clare County Council gave an update on the new housing development proposed for Scarriff”.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by Cllr. P. Burke

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing:

“In July of this year, Clare County Council received Stage 3 approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the proposed housing development in Scarriff. This approval was granted with an all-in budget of €6,093,289 (incl. VAT). The Housing Department thereafter commenced the tender process for the engagement of a contractor for the construction of the project. The closing date for the receipt of tenders is approaching and the tender assessment process will thereafter be advanced by the Housing Department. It is

anticipated, subject to a tender being approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the timeframe associated with same, that construction will commence on this project prior to the end of 2022”.

Cllr Cooney welcomed the reply and was happy that several locals would be accommodated. Cllr Hayes enquired regarding the timeline for construction and asked are Clare County Council confident works are approved. Ms A Haugh indicated the determining factors going forward will be on the price when the tender is adjudicated on. Cllr Hayes welcomed the reply and queried the cost per unit and highlighted the cost per unit is rising.

Item 10 Notices of Motion from Cllr. P. Burke

“That Clare County Council give an update on any proposed works for the Church ruins in Moynoe cemetery where scaffolding was erected a number of months ago”.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by Cllr. J Cooney

Reply from Bernadette Haugh, Acting Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development:

“The Burial Grounds Unit has carried out a comprehensive plan to deal with the stabilisation of the medieval church ruins at Moynoe Burial Ground. This involved the erection of a scaffolding system to support the compromised areas of the gable structure. This involved the removal of a significant amount of foliage overburden.

In cooperation with the Architectural Conservation Officer, Burial Grounds Unit staff have carried out 3D modelling surveys of the structure. The Architectural Conservation Officer has also delivered a comprehensive condition report on the structure, which has defined all the critical elements required for both the emergency and long-term conservation of the structure. Staff have also carried out an onsite inspection with the Monument Protection Officer at the National Monuments Service. The Monument Protection Officer has advised on the necessary course of action to carry out remediation and conservation works to ensure the long-term stabilisation of the structure. This is likely to be a lengthy and expensive process.

A likely source of funding from the National Monuments Service has been identified by way of the Community Monuments Fund. Burial Ground Unit staff have finalised an application for this funding stream which includes costing for the preparation of the conservation method

statement, project management, onsite conservation works and archaeological monitoring. A decision on this application may take some time. The Burial Grounds Unit remains committed to resolving this issue, but its success is dependent on the outcome of the application for emergency funding from outside stakeholders as the Burial Grounds Unit do not have a budget or remit for conservation works”.

Cllr Burke stated that the motion was put down on behalf of locals who had loved ones buried at the location. He also stated that a Community Monuments fund has produced funding for Clonrush Graveyard in the past. Cllr Cooney is aware of the inconvenience for locals and acknowledged the big issue is funding to get projects to fruition. He enquired as to where the funding was coming from to make these projects happen. Cllr Hayes indicated that the SPC reviewed graveyards and it appears there is a lack of funding for burial grounds. Cllr Hayes stated the situation warranted emergency funding.

Item 11 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Burke:-

“Calling on Clare County Council to explore the possibility of installing a footpath outside the village of Quin on the Ballykilty/Dromoland road in the interest of road safety”.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by Cllr. A. O’ Callaghan

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“Killaloe Municipal District will consider the installation of a footpath including provision of public lighting from a point approximately opposite Maigh Dara, to the speed limit on the Ballykilty Road. A project outline proposal will be submitted to Clare County Council Road Design Section for inclusion in a countywide funding submission to the National Transport Authority (NTA) under the Active Travel Investment Programme. This programme is aimed at ‘developing high quality walking and cycling facilities will encourage more people to switch to active travel and will contribute to tackling climate change. Connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone’, (www.nationaltransport.ie). The NTA allocate funding and approval of the detailed design proposals submitted by Clare County Council. It is expected that there will be a call for countywide project submissions in December 2022, with specific project funding approval confirmation to be announced in January 2023”.

Cllr Burke said he was looking forward to further progress on this project as there was an incident there in the past 5/6 weeks. Cllr O' Callaghan said that that side of Quin is zoned and a lot of development will be on that side. Cllr O' Callaghan suggested a town plan for the overall village of Quin.

Item 12 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Hayes:-

“I am asking that a section of the road between Killanena and Dromindorra be included in the 2023 road programme. There are some dangerous dips on this section and needs immediate attention. “

Proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by Cllr. T. O' Brien

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“I wish to confirm that this section of the R461 will be considered for restoration improvement roadworks as part of the 2023 Killaloe Municipal District Schedule of Works. An inspection will be undertaken to establish its current condition, to assess if more immediate repairs are required to be undertaken”.

Cllr Hayes stated that work has not been done in a long time on this stretch of road and needs an overlay to make it safe. He said he hopes it will be included in the 2023 programme. Cllr O' Callaghan stated perhaps blacktop should be used instead of tar and chip for heavily trafficked roads.

Item 13 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Hayes:-

“I am asking for an update into the works proposed for the recently taken in charge Factory houses estate on the Connaught Road, Scariff and when this might be completed.”

Proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney

Reply from Kieran O Donnell, Administrative Office, Planning

“The Planning Department is currently assessing the tenders received to carry out remedial works at Derg View, Scariff. A preferred contractor has been identified and it is planned that this contractor will be appointed in the coming weeks. It is expected that the works will commence in mid-October and will be completed by the end of the year”.

Cllr Hayes indicated residents are wondering when works will be completed. Cllr Hayes welcomed the reply regarding the contractor for this project. Cllr Hayes requested an outline of proposed works at this location. Cllr Cooney thanked the council for great work to bring it to this stage. Cllr Burke welcomed the reply and was glad to see the work going ahead. Cllr O’ Callaghan complimented worked being done on the estate since July.

Any other business.

Cllr O’ Callaghan offered sympathies to the McInerney on their recent loss.

Cllr O’ Brien complemented the people of Tuamgraney in bringing the Aga Khan trophy to Tuamgraney.

Cllr Hayes enquired regarding the bye laws relating to jet skis and said the issued needs to be raised again.

Cllr Hayes also enquired regarding works at Henchys Junction and said works need to happen soon.

The members at the meeting were high in praise of SEO Morgan Lahiffe on his last meeting in the MD. All present thanked him for his work in the area and wished him well in his new post of SE in Climate Change.

The meeting concluded.

Morgan Lahiffe

A/ Senior Executive Officer

7th October, 2022

