

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Tuesday 8th November, 2016 at 9.45am at the offices of the
Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare County Council**

Present: Councillors John Crowe (Cathaoirleach), Pat McMahon, PJ Ryan, Cathal Crowe, Mike McKee, Gerard Flynn.

Liam Conneally Director of Service, Fiona Mooney Meetings Administrator, Eugene O'Shea Senior Executive Engineer, Deirdre Ryan Staff Officer.

1. Minutes of meeting of Shannon Municipal District (SMDA) held on 20th September 2016

Clarification was sought on the proposed start time of future meetings and the absence of AOB having been listed on the agenda. The meetings administrator confirmed that the revision of standing orders at item 5 of today's agenda contained a proposal on start time and that the order of business prescribed in the current standing orders does not list AOB. Members could consider changing the order of business also under item 5. The minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2016 were proposed by Cllr Mike McKee, seconded by Cllr John Crowe and agreed by all.

2. Minutes of GMA Draft Budgetary Meeting held on 26th October 2016

The minutes of GMA draft budgetary meeting held on 26th October were proposed by Cllr Cathal Crowe, seconded by Cllr Mike McKee and agreed by all.

3. Meeting with Irish Water

The Councillors complimented the works undertaken on the ground by former Council staff now working as part of Irish Water. However dissatisfaction was expressed with the ongoing reply from Irish Water, refusal to attend statutory meetings of the SMD and the approach to communication with elected members.

4. Briefing on Moneen & Kilquane Burial Grounds

The meetings administrator confirmed she had received a note from the burial ground executive confirming it may be possible to provide update in January in relation to Moneen and Kilquane burial grounds. Members confirmed they wished to do everything they can to support public access to burial grounds.

5. Draft Revised Standing Orders for Shannon Municipal District

The circulated draft revised standing orders, were proposed by Cllr Flynn, seconded by Cllr Cathal Crowe and agreed by all. An additional revision requested and agreed, over and above what had been circulated, was to add 'AOB' to the order of agenda business.

6. Draft Community Grants Scheme 2017

Liam Conneally discussed the circulated draft amendments and advised the members that the amendments related to targeting the scheme to benefit community organisations within proper governance of public funding. A specific project could be part of an overall strategy but it was clarified and agreed that only specific projects capable of being completed within the year with funding drawn down within the scheme deadline within the year would be eligible under the scheme. The scheme will be advertised through local & social media, parish newsletters, and will be launched in January 2017. The draft scheme was proposed by Cllr Cathal Crowe, seconded by Cllr Ryan and agreed by all.

7. Declaration of Public Roads – Aisling Court, Brickhill West, Cratloe & Castlecourt, Brickhill East, Cratloe (attached)

The declaration of public roads was proposed by Cllr Flynn and seconded by Cllr Ryan and agreed by all.

8. Road Works Programme

Eugene O’Shea reported that flooding projects were ongoing at multiple locations as a result of significant flood mitigation funding granted for 2016. Over-lay works are being completed on the R462, Cratloe and on the R463, Blackwater. Other road and footpath maintenance works are also in progress. Restoration improvement scheme works on the Ballycar Road, Newmarket on Fergus have been delayed by Irish Water as pipes need first to be laid under the road. It was confirmed that Irish Water had given assurances that the pipe laying will commence soon and the senior executive engineer confirmed that surface overlay would follow immediately afterwards. Members were disappointed with the delay on Council completion of the surface works, caused by Irish Water.

Item 16 of the agenda was taken at this point in the meeting.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Pat McMahan agus glacadh leis:

“That the Shannon Municipal District do some strengthening work on the Strand Road Rineanna as a matter of urgency and that a community improvement scheme be considered for 2017 as a more permanent solution to address the appalling state of this public road”.

Eugene O’Shea replies as follows:

Subject to available resources works on this road will be undertaken as soon as possible. It will also be considered under the Community Roadworks Scheme for inclusion in the 2017 Roadworks Programme.

In discussion, the need to prioritise funding was referred to. The senior executive engineer would mitigate with some hardcore stone on this tertiary road. Members expressed the view that wet weather would interfere with that temporary solution.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council put in place traffic management plans at Corrib Drive from Fergus Road to St. Senan’s School”.

Eugene O’Shea replies as follows:

Corrib Drive provides access to a number of residential developments including Boyne Park, Lee Park, Caragh Park etc. serving in excess of 230 houses, St. Senan’s National School and Mary Immaculate Church. It is a very busy thoroughfare especially at school pick-up and drop-off times. The Shannon MD office will consult with the school authorities, the Gardaí and the council’s Road Design office in order to examine traffic management issues and to explore possible solutions.

In discussion it was considered useful that a school traffic warden would be factored into consideration of the solution.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal District would erect slow signs or traffic calming measure on the Portdrine/Ballymorris, Cratloe slipway Northbound on the M18”.

Eugene O’Shea replies as follows:

The road in question falls within the remit of Transport Infrastructure Ireland as part of the National Road network and is maintained by Colas Roadbridge on behalf of TII. This proposal will be forwarded to TII for their consideration.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal Authority would erect warning signs approaching Killeen Graveyard on the R462 Cratloe Road, Sixmilebridge”.

Eugene O’Shea replies as follows:

The access to this graveyard is inside the 50km/hr speed limit entering Sixmilebridge and is located on a bend with limited sight distance on the Cratloe side. The existing advance signage will be examined and consideration will be given to the installation of appropriate additional signage.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"That this Municipal Authority would erect double lights on existing street light adjacent to the Auction Rooms in Sixmilebridge on the R471".

Eugene O'Shea replies as follows:

A meeting on site with the council's public lighting service provider will be arranged as soon as possible in order to examine possible improvements to the existing lighting. Any proposed improvements will be subject to available resources.

It was generally agreed, in discussion, that more investment is needed in street lighting.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"That this Municipal District instal a light at the crest of the Tailrace Bridge and improve the footpath between this location and Parteen Village"

Eugene O'Shea replies as follows:

The council's public lighting service provider will be requested to provide a quotation for the installation of a street light at this location. Funding for the provision of street lighting throughout the county is very limited and any such installations are subject to available resources. It should also be noted that this bridge is the property of the ESB and any proposed works will be subject to their approval.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"That Irish Water decommission the existing sewage treatment plant in Ballycannon Heights (Meelick) and replace it with a more modern, higher capacity facility"

In discussion, the view expressed was that maintenance would not permanently solve the maintenance problems and that replacement with a facility capable of dealing with Meelick village was required.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"That this Clare County Council provide a detailed report on the taking in charge of the Carraig Midhe (Knockballynameath) and devise plans to remove the existing speed ramps and replace them with safer, better-constructed alternatives"

Helen Quinn replied as follows:

A claim was made on the bond in relation to this development in November 2013 as the developer went into receivership. The Planning Authority prepared a scope of works for agreement with the bondholders under a Site Resolution Plan which, when completed to the satisfaction of Clare County Council and Irish Water, will allow this development to be considered for Taking in Charge. The bondholders intend to undertake the outstanding works in order to complete the development to the required standard for Taking in Charge. The bondholders have a contractor engaged on the completion of outstanding works on 2 other developments in Co. Clare and when works are completed on these developments, they will be arranging for the commencement of works on Carraig Midhe. We await confirmation from them as to when such works are likely to be progressed.

In discussion, the meetings administrator was asked to request the Planning Authority to seek the removal of the ramps as an urgent standalone item in advance of the remaining works.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Agenda item no. 16 had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

"That the Shannon MDC apply a new black top tarmacadam surface to the footpath at the rear of the Corrib Drive uneven number houses. This is a very well used path to the local church but the condition has deteriorated over the years and needs upgrading. I would also request some remedial work to the footpath on Bothar an Aerphort serving walkers from Drumgeely, this path is located on the lower side of Drumgeely and is impassable during times of rainfall".

Eugene O'Shea replies as follows:

This macadam footpath at the rear of the houses on Corrib Drive has deteriorated over the years through aging and lack of investment. It will be considered for inclusion in the current years works programme subject to prioritisation of works and available resources. Works on the footpath on Bothar an Aerphort will also be considered for inclusion in the current year's works programme.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Shannon Municipal District Council call on Shannon Group PLC to provide Information concerning the sale of property from the property portfolio provided by the government to maintain and support Shannon International Airport. That information also be provided concerning the recent proposal to offload Ballycasey workshops and also advise The Council of any property in their ownership in the vicinity of Skycourt Shopping Centre”.

Members expressed concern about asset disposals in a depressed property market and about the impact on jobs in the district and in the region. Members were totally opposed to sale of Ballycasey workshops. They requested an invitation to issue to the Shannon Group PLC property manager to attend the January meeting of the SMD to clarify a number of issues in relation to the proposed sale and the future of the businesses located there.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That the SMDC erect signs at well recognised landmarks within the town of Shannon”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

A list and location of the landmarks referred to should be provided to the council in order for this proposal to be given detailed consideration. Consultation with relevant parties will be necessary and a source of funding will have to be identified for this proposal to progress. Note also that all public signage must be in both Irish and English languages.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That the hedging/shrubbery at the path by the side of the former Dr William Flynn’s house leading to Drumgeely flats be cut back to enable walkers use this facility”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Subject to available resources works on this footpath will be considered for inclusion in the current year’s works programme.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Corwe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“I am requesting that drainage work be undertaken in Meelick especially in the areas around The Liberty Trench and from Johnny Whytes to Sheilds Garage to alleviate the severe flooding that has occurred in recent years”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

This particular area was under threat during the floods that occurred during Dec. 2015 and the L3012 road in Meelick was closed for a period of time due to this flooding. As the council has no responsibility for drainage in this area it will be necessary to communicate this request to the Office of Public Works who, I understand, have responsibility for the main river channels.

Cllr John Crowe requested SMD contact the OPW directly to address this issue.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“With the change in putting the clocks back and the nights being very dark I am again checking on progress for request on lighting from the Sixmilebridge train station to the Garda station as there is a large volume of people using this road”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Funding for the provision of street lighting throughout the county is very limited and any such installations are subject to available resources. However the council’s public lighting service provider will be requested to provide a quotation for the installation of street lighting along the R471 at this location and it can then be considered for inclusion in the 2017 works programme subject to availability of resources and to prioritisation of works.

Cllr John Crowe requested additional funding for public lighting within the district.

At this point, Cllr John Crowe proposed and Cllr Flynn seconded suspending standing orders to complete the meeting.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“ I am looking for a complete upgrade for all the footpaths in Sixmilebridge as some of these are in a very bad state”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

It is proposed to continue the programme of footpath works that has been ongoing in recent years throughout the Shannon Municipal District, including Sixmilebridge. Works will be undertaken on a priority basis subject to availability of resources.

In discussion, Cllr John Crowe referred to the need to incorporate wheelchair accessibility in the project.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“I wish to ask what are the remaining works to be done for the official take-over of the Boheraroan Estate in Newmarket-on-Fergus”

Helen Quinn replied as follows:

The Planning Authority made a claim on the bond in relation to this development in August 2011 on notification that the developers were in receivership. A letter issued to the bondholder in October 2014 together with a costed schedule of the outstanding works to substantiate the Planning Authority’s claim on the bond. I wish to advise that the Planning Authority continue to engage with Agents appointed on behalf of the receivers who recently submitted a proposal in conjunction with their lending institution in relation to the schedule of outstanding works for agreement with the Planning Authority in order to complete the development to the required standard for Taking in Charge. Some of the issues remaining outstanding are in relation to the carrying out of CCTV, repair to footpaths, replacement of hydrant marker and sluice valve markers, estate name plate etc.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“I wish to ask what is the current status of the Lough Ash Estate in Newmarket on Fergus for works to be done for the take-over”.

Helen Quinn replied as follows:

The Planning Authority made a claim on the bond in relation to this development in October 2014 and a schedule of the outstanding works required to be carried out within this development together with a costing was sent to the bondholders in November 2014 to substantiate the Council’s claim on the bond. Agents were appointed on behalf of the bondholders and the Planning Authority is in ongoing correspondence with the bondholders on this and other Ulster Bank bonded developments. However, the lack of engagement from the bondholders to date is hindering our ability to progress matters. We will continue to pursue our previous claim to enable this development to progress to taking in charge.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“I call on Clare County Council to review road safety measures in Glenn Cora Estate Newmarket on Fergus, particularly the Green Areas ”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Only recently taken into public charge the road alignment geometry within this development would have been designed to comply with the Traffic Management Guidelines in order to restrict traffic speeds through the development. However a review of the existing situation will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity in order to ascertain the extent of any road safety issues now arising.

27. Correspondence

The email response received from Irish Water dated 23rd September 2016 was noted.

28. Any Other Business (AOB)

Cllr Cathal Crowe suggested an invitation be issued to Ann Cronin, senior executive engineer in road design, to attend an SMD meeting, to outline any projects in the district. The March meeting of the SMD was agreed as the suggestion.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator
