

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Tuesday 20th September, 2016 at 9.00am at the offices of the Municipal District,
Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare**

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

Gerard Dollard, Director of Service, Niall Barrett, Head of Finance, Aidan O'Rourke Executive Engineer; Orla Doolaghty A/Staff Officer; Fiona Mooney Meetings Administrator,

1. Minutes of meeting of Shannon Municipal District held on 12th July 2016

Cllr John Crowe opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July were proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn, seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

2. Meeting with Irish Water

The meetings administrator had requested an attendance at a statutory meeting and the reply had been distributed with correspondence. Members noted the reply and asked for agenda item to continue.

3. Proposed Schedule of Meetings 2016 - 2017 for the Municipal District of Shannon

The schedule was proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn, seconded by Cllr Cathal Crowe and agreed by all. Cllr Gerard Flynn proposed amending the standing orders in order to commence the meeting at 9.30am and for the meeting to continue for not more than 2 hours.

4. Report on Community Grants Scheme 2015

The meetings administrator had circulated a briefing report on the projects under the 2015 scheme, and had made some recommendations. Acceptance of the recommendations was proposed by Cllr Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr Ryan. Members talked of how the scheme had been well received in the community and expressed their view that another grant scheme should be operated, subject to funding.

5. Declaration of Public Roads – Glean Cora, Newmarket on Fergus

Items 5 and item 26 of the agenda were dealt with now. The declaration was proposed by Cllr Pat McMahon, seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and agreed and welcomed.

6. Update on Designated Urban Centre Grants Scheme –Shannon Town Park

Gerard Dollard, director of service, briefed members on the Shannon Town Park. He outlined that funding of €455K was available from the Regional Assembly, with Clare County Council matching the funding, giving a total of €910K investment. He reported that detailed design was commencing (Nic de Jong Associates) and members would be kept updated about all the public consultation involved.

7. Update on Limerick Hinterland Funding – Shannon Green Infrastructure Plan

Gerard Dollard, director of service, briefed the members on the Shannon Green Infrastructure Plan. He outlined that €85K total funding is available for developing the link between the Shannon Town Park and the estuary. A detailed proposal would be developed, as soon as possible. It was noted that the memorial behind Cluan Airne will not be effected.

8. Update on Recreational Funding - Shannon Looped Walks

Gerard Dollard, director of service, briefed the members on the Recreational Funding allocation and that that €255K was available for the Shannon Looped Walks from Shannon town along the estuary to Drumgeely Hill. He further outlined that survey work is required and a progress report on the scheme will be available in the coming months.

9. Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016.

Gerard Dollard briefed the members on the scheme and in particular the tight deadlines, whereby projects had to be submitted by 30th September 2016 and expenditure had to be completed by the year end. €380K is available for the county, of which €95K is allocated to the Shannon Municipal District. Two types of funding available i) town or village with population less than 5,000 and ii) town or village with population between 5,000 and 10,000 and Shannon is the only town in the county in this category.

Since projects needed to be already developed to be submitted for such a tight timeline scheme, the director recommended the most suitable project for the Shannon Municipal District is the Slí na Mara project (upgrade of lighting and of the surface of the path, tidying and trimming back of vegetation also involved). The director distributed an extract from the Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan, which had the 'Slí na Mara' route as an objective. It was noted that the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was anticipated to continue for five years, so that it was possible to develop projects for the future from other parts of the district. Members were happy for the recommended project to proceed.

10. Review of Speed Limits

Some members said that submissions had been made which were not listed. Some proposed decreases and increases in speed limits on various roads were welcomed by members.

Aidan O'Rourke, executive engineer, outlined that the review was at draft stage and there was still time for members to have roads included in the final consideration.

11. General Municipal Allocation and Additional Allocation 2016.

Niall Barrett, head of finance, referred to the additional €70K available for the Shannon Municipal District for footpaths, lighting and roads, as well as the original GMA amount of €44.1K. Some members expressed disappointment that other districts received higher funding. Members felt that the additional infrastructure funding of €70K could usefully be divided within the district and used to deliver some of the works requested in notices of motions submitted by members recently which had not progressed

because of lack of resources. Members welcomed direction from the senior executive engineer on where the funding could best be spent. Members also wished to have another community grants scheme, with €30K being set aside for it (to be added to the small amount of unused funding from the 2015 scheme, as per the September 2016 report presented at item 4 of this agenda).

12. Roads Work Programme

The executive engineer briefed the members and outlined that phase 2 of the Ballycar Road scheme will take place shortly with Irish Water commencing works in the coming week and outlined that additional works will take place in the Bunratty area in the coming weeks.

13. Draft Lead in Water Drinking Mitigation Plan

Members noted the item.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council design a footpath to link Barry's Cross, Ardnacrusa with Griffin's Cross, Parteen and examine all possible funding sources for same”.

Eugene O'Shea replies as follows:

A footpath scheme such as that proposed would be difficult to justify from either a pedestrian demand or a resources perspective. Priority in terms of capital spending on footpath works in this area is more likely to be on the continuation of the existing footpath link along the R463 between Larkin's Cross and Griffin's Cross. The only possible funding sources currently available for capital works on footpaths are Own Resources or from Dept of Transport, both of which have been reducing for the last number of years. It should also be noted that unless funding becomes available that it will not be possible to commit design resources to such a scheme.

Cllr Cathal Crowe requested that the proposal be forwarded to Ann Cronin, Road Design, for consideration.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council include sections of roadway that are in poor repair in the Portdrine/Ballymorris area of Cratloe in the 2017 Roadworks Programme.”

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Significant drainage and pavement overlay works on the L7122 local road in Ballymorris have just been completed as part of the 2016 Roadworks Programme of the Shannon MD. Works on the L3114 local road in Portdrine are included in the 2016 to 2018 Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme

for the Shannon MD and, subject to allocation of funding, will be considered for inclusion in the 2017 programme of works.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council constructs a raised kerb at Gavin's Cross in Meelick and removes the banked earth that is restrictive to motorist visibility.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Works at this location will be considered for inclusion in the works programme for the Shannon MD subject to availability of resources.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe welcomed the reply but hoped it could be considered in the 2017 budget. Cllr Crowe requested that approximate costings be put on replies, where possible.

17. 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 give an update on the progress of the taking in charge of those estates in Shannon which have not been, and if it's possible, as all the residents are paying local property tax, that at the very least, the Council undertake to have the grass cut in these estates”.

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

There are currently 39 residential developments on our Register of Estates in the Shannon Municipal District. The Statutory process for Taking in charge was commenced on the following 4 developments recently and the identification and completion of priority works is currently being progressed with a view to finalising the Taking in Charge:

Páirc an Fhia, Deerpark, Bunratty

Aisling Court, Cratloe

Castlecourt, Cratloe

Chapel Court, Sixmilebridge

The remaining 35 developments as outlined hereunder are all at various stages of progression and are all being actively progressed for Taking in Charge.

Castlebank, Ardnacrusha

Manor Grove, Ardnacrusha

Springhill, Blackwater

The Meadows/An Moinear/Elmwood Drive, Meelick

Rosan Bunraite, Bunratty

Dun Ri, Bunratty

Cluain Ráite, Bunratty

Carraig Midhe, Corbally

Woodbrook, Cratloe

Cratloe Wood, Cratloe

Brickhill West, Cratloe
Ballymorris, Cratloe
Development at Cratloe Cross Roads, Cratloe
Lough Gash, Newmarket on Fergus
Boheraroan, Newmarket on Fergus
Woodbrook, Newmarket on Fergus
Deerpark Housing Estate, Ministers Cross
Dun Aras/Cluain Alainn/Ballycasey Ave, Shannon
Ros Silin, Shannon
Cluainin, Shannon
Dun na Ri, Shannon
Radharc na Coille, Shannon
Ros na Greine, Shannon
Oakfields, Shannon
Brookfields, Shannon
O'Garney Heights, Sixmilebridge
Cluain Droichead, Sixmilebridge
Ard na Greine, Sixmilebridge
Lios Anama, Sixmilebridge
Woodview Heights, Sixmilebridge
Ard Ratha, Sixmilebridge
Gort na nUll, Sixmilebridge
Development at Sooreeney, Sixmilebridge
Development at Cloghlea, Sixmilebridge
Bruachlan/Grianan, Westbury

In relation to issue of grass cutting I wish to advise that all of the developments are private developments and not the responsibility of Clare Co. Council until such time as they are taken in charge. Furthermore, it is not Council policy to cut grass on estates which have been taken in charge. The Council operates a number of grant schemes e.g. priming grants to assist residents in undertaking this activity and any enquiries in this regard can be directed to the Environment section.

The Planning Authority will continue to progress the taking in charge of all residential developments to satisfactory completion in the interest of the residents concerned.

Cllr Mike McKee expressed disappointment with the reply and questioned why some estates had their grass cut by the Council and others not. Cllr McKee enquired if a priority list operated on taking estates in charge. The director of service confirmed that a priority basis did not operate and that the estates as listed were not in a priority order. He confirmed that all of them were in effect priority, each estate having a unique set of complex issues, including in many cases, bonds in place.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That SMDC ensure that the landscaping contractors remove the cut grass from roads and footpaths”.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Removal of cut grass from footpaths has been an on-going issue with the current contractor and certainly has left a lot to be desired. Discussions with the contractor with a view to achieving an immediate improvement in performance on this issue are progressing.

Following discussion about problems with grass cutting and weed control in Shannon during 2016, the executive engineer outlined that executives from the district are currently holding meetings with the contractor in a hope to overcome the issues experienced in 2016. The executive engineer outlined that this was the third year this contractor had been used, but the first year that problems had been experienced. Members welcomed the attempt to resolve the issues.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"I am requesting a roundabout for Griffins Cross, Parteen as there is a big build up of traffic from Parteen village.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Griffins Cross is at the junction of the R463 and R464 Regional Roads and the L3058 local road just outside Parteen village. Significant improvement works were undertaken at this junction in recent years and accident statistics suggest that there is no recent significant accident history there. The build-up of traffic from the village referred to occurs for short periods at peak traffic times but the junction functions adequately otherwise. The cost of providing a roundabout at this junction including any necessary land purchase, services diversions, construction costs etc would be very significant and no funding is currently available for such a scheme.

Cllrs John and Cathal Crowe were disappointed with the reply.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I am requesting a follow up on my previous motion regarding flooding on the Sixmilebridge to Cratloe road."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Progress on alleviating this flooding issue on the R462 Regional Road is ongoing following discussions with local landowners. Barring unforeseen issues it is intended to complete these works over the coming weeks.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“At Cluain Drohid estate, Sixmilebridge, I am requesting traffic calming measures to be put in place. There is a large number of children living in this estate and for their safety I request traffic calming measures.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Works are currently being carried out within this development as part of the Site Resolution Plan agreed between the council’s Planning section and the bondholders, the implementation of which may result in the scheme being taken into public charge. These works only relate to items in the planning conditions for the development and do not include for installation of traffic calming measures. Notwithstanding the fact that installation of traffic calming measures in the estate, such as ramps, would not conform with the Councils policy in relation to such matters, it may be possible to consider the appropriateness or otherwise of such facilities in future – pending the taking in charge of the development.

Cllr. John Crowe requested traffic calming measures be a condition of planning in the future.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That the Council continues with the removal of dangerous trees on public roads throughout Shannon and especially some large trees near Mary Immaculate Church in Drumgeely, Bothar Mor and Bealach Bri”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Given the enormously positive value of trees in the environment generally their removal is only considered in very limited circumstances e.g. if they are a threat to the health and safety of people and / or property. Any trees that are reported as dangerous are inspected in the first instance by technical staff from this office and, if warranted, are referred to an independent, experienced arborist who advises on whether or not action is required. Trees that are considered dangerous are removed at the earliest opportunity and re-planting with appropriate species is arranged during the next planting season at suitable locations. It should be noted that on-going maintenance of trees across the MD and, in particular in Shannon Town, is an increasingly heavy burden on limited resources.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Shannon MDC request a meeting with Airtricity with the intention of improving the decrepit state of public lighting in parts of Shannon and also try and improve response times to faults by Airtricity.” The head of finance referred to the additional allocation 2016 GMA funds which could, if so decided, be used for the maintenance of public lighting. Cllr Flynn proposed that the meetings administrator write to Airtricity to request a meeting and this was agreed.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Item no. 24 was taken along with item no. 18.

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council review the grass cutting contract in Shannon and consideration be given to 1/ Increasing frequency of cutting 2/ More attention to weed control 3/ Removal of cut grass from public walkways 4/ Control of encroachment of grass on edge of footpaths”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The current grass-cutting contract allows for 16 No. cuts between April and October i.e. one cut every 2 weeks. Increasing the frequency of cuts would have obvious resource implications and, unless there is a significant increase in Own Resources funding, will not be possible. The contractor is required to undertake weed control around trees and poles etc in spring and late summer / early autumn. The second round of weed control has been delayed due to weather conditions but will be undertaken shortly. Removal of cut grass from footpaths has been an on-going issue with the current contractor and certainly has left a lot to be desired. Discussions with the contractor on this issue are on-going with a view to an immediate improvement in performance. Shannon MD outdoor staff have undertaken works throughout Shannon Town this year on control of grass encroachment on the edges of footpaths and, subject to availability of resources, these works will be continue.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“Ask Clare County Council to provide additional traffic calming measures at Ennis Road Newmarket on Fergus as some motorist continue to drive at excessive speed.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The spacing of the recently-installed traffic calming measures along this road complies with the Traffic Management Guidelines and the provision of additional measures is not envisaged.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“Ask Clare County Council for an update on the taking in charge of Glencora Housing Estate, Newmarket on Fergus”.

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

This estate is before the members for consideration at their Municipal District Meeting on 20th September 2016.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“Ask Clare County Council to consider the installation of a cycle lane from the roundabout at Ballymurtagh to Shannon Aerospace.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The route from the entrance to Shannon Aerospace to the roundabout on the R472 is included in the Shannon Town & Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 as a proposed cycling route, however it has not been identified as a priority and is not included in the proposed initial phases for implementation. This can be reviewed when the next Local Area Plan is being considered.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal Authority request a community environmental warden be appointed in the Shannon municipal district”.

Anne Haugh replied as follows:

Clare County Council currently receives an annual Waste Enforcement grant, to fund the Waste Enforcement Team, which is based in Environment Section. This multidisciplinary team includes three wardens for the County, whose work areas are designated on an approximation of population per area, as follows: Ennis, West Clare and East Clare. The Community Warden for the East Clare area regularly patrols Shannon town and the surrounding areas as part of his litter patrol route.

Under the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended in 2014) all functions in relation to staffing matters are an Executive Function of Clare County Council. Please be assured that Clare County Council will continue its endeavours to overcome illegal dumping through education, regular patrolling and prosecution when possible.

Cllr Ryan expressed disappointment with the reply.

29. 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 install traffic calming restrictions on the Ballymorris/Well Road, Cratloe.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

This local road, the L7121, is approx. 1km in length and provides a link between the southern and northern sides of the N18 at Ballymorris and between Cratloe and Ballymorris. Apart from the 300 metre central section that was widened in conjunction with local residential development over a number of years the northern and southern sections of the road are winding and narrow and not conducive to excessive speeds. The road is subject to an 80km/hr speed limit and the installation of traffic calming

measures is not appropriate in such circumstances. It should also be noted that there are no records of accidents on this stretch of road recorded on the council's Pavement Management system.

Cllr Ryan expressed his disappointment with the reply .

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal Authority would carry out drainage works and repair water gullies on the R471 at Cappa, Sixmilebridge”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Subject to available resources, works on the drainage network on the R471 Regional Road at Cappagh will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

31. Correspondence

- Letter received 27th July 2016 from chairman of Shannon Group
- Email received 2nd September 2016 from Eir, in response to notice of motion from July meeting
- Email received 15th September 2016 from Irish Water

Cllr Cathal Crowe proposed issuing a letter to David Murphy of Clare Motor Club to compliment the committee on the recent rally held in the Shannon municipal district area. He further proposed inviting the rally back to the area in 2017.

Meeting closed at 11.05am.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator