

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 16th May 2017 at 9.45am at the offices of the Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare

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

Liam Conneally, Director of Service; Eugene O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer; Valerie Fleming, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies: Councillor Cathal Crowe.

1. Minutes of meeting of Shannon Municipal District held on 23rd March 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2017 were proposed by Cllr G Flynn, seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and agreed.

2. The Shannon Venue Project – Presentation by Derek Barrett and Eoin Hctor.

Derek Barrett addressed the meeting and outlined the status of the Shannon Venue Project. At a recent meeting with Minister Michael Noonan the Minister committed full support to the project and is endeavouring to secure funding for it. Derek Barrett asked Councillors to lobby for an allocation of rates collected in Shannon to go towards the current €7.3m budget for this project. He added that no objection was made to the project at the planning stage and the aim is to have the building up and running by 2020.

Eoin Hctor addressed the meeting and asked members to help drive the project forward. Cllr G Flynn requested revised costings as he is a member of CEDRA and D. Barrett responded that it is difficult to provide revised costings until the design is agreed and put to tender.

Cllr P. McMahon added that the concept is very positive for all surrounding areas.

Derek Barrett outlined that 5 companies have been approached for sponsorship and 3-4 of those have come on board. The next phase is to secure National and Local Government funding and then commence local fundraising through such initiatives as 'Sponsor a Seat' and 'Buy a Brick'.

Liam Conneally thanked D Barrett and E Hctor for their presentation and commented that the project was very well received by Minister Noonan. He said it is vital there is a commercial aspect to funding the project and said Clare County Council will be supportive. He added that a big issue is the day to day operation costs of the project as public funding will not be available for this.

Derek Barrett asked for funding contribution toward the €170k design team costs. Members advised that the Shannon MD does not have the ability to fund such large sums.

3. Hinterland Funding – Playgrounds locations at Meelick and Westbury.

Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, addressed the meeting and referred to the *Update on Playground Location for Westbury and Meelick* document received by the members. She said the Meelick playground costing is €105k and the Westbury one is €125k. 50% of this funding will be met by Clare County Council/Hinterland funding.

The Members agreed to put the preferred options as set out in the document out to public consultation.

4. Proposals to address recent burglaries in Shannon.

Sgt Seamus Mulligan, Detective Kevin O'Hagan and Inspector Tom Kennedy attended the meeting to discuss policing matters in the Shannon area.

Cllr Gerry Flynn referred to a number of recent crime incidents and called for more Gardai on the beat.

Sgt Seamus Mulligan stated that the obligation to provide Garda security cover to Shannon Airport is on a sporadic basis and Shannon Town benefits from the extra Gardai at all other times. He said a Community Guard has been appointed since Christmas and they are aiming to establish *Neighbourhood Watch* on every estate in Shannon.

Detective Kevin O'Hagan stated that the number of Gardai on the beat has increased and it is intended to have mountain bike patrol in place daily during the summer. He added the number of summonses has increased due to the extra Garda presence. He also made reference to Gardai ringing and writing to victims of crime to follow up on their recovery.

Cllr G. Flynn welcomed the Community Garda and commended the work of the litter warden. He recommended a leaflet drop by the Gardai and welcomed any positive interface with the public. He stated he would like the Gardai to be invited to address the Shannon Municipal District meeting at least once a year.

Inspector Tom Kennedy said resources are always an issue and burglaries and anti-social behaviour can be difficult to prosecute. He said the Gardai are always striving to improve methods while meeting demands.

Liam Conneally confirmed a Garda address to the Shannon Municipal District members would be included as an agenda on an annual basis and suggested the Gardai would also set the discussion agenda.

The Cathaoirleach suspended Standing Orders at 11.30am in order to progress with the agenda. This was proposed by Cllr. G Flynn, seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by the members.

5. Briefing from Respond Housing Association regarding issues in relation to housing at Rinneana View, Shannon.

This item was not dealt with as Cllr Mike McKee was satisfied items raised in his Notice of Motion have since been dealt with.

6. National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) Shannon Housing Project.

Derek Allen introduced the work of the NDFA which is a state agency that provides financial advice on major capital projects and provides project management and

construction management services. With regard to the Shannon project he said the PPP Company will be appointed through a tender process and they will design, build, finance and manage the project. He said there are over 50 housing units proposed for the Shannon East Site.

Edel from Simon J. Kelly Architects outlined the Shannon project details to the meeting and received feedback from the Members on the need for a proper housing mix(type) and flood risk issues concerning development at Shannon. Members supported that project which would be put before full Council in the coming months as a Part VIII application.

7. Meeting with Irish Water.

The members expressed continued dissatisfaction with Irish Water's non attendance at a statutory meeting of the SMD and the approach to communication with elected members. They agreed to keep this item on the Agenda.

8. Moneen and Kilquane Burial Grounds.

This item was deferred.

9. Shannon Municipal District Community Grants Scheme 2017.

The Shannon Municipal District Community Grants Scheme 2017 was proposed by Cllr Gerry Flynn, seconded by Cllr P.J. Ryan and agreed.

10. Roads Programme.

Eugene O'Shea advised that one third of the roads surface dressing programme has been completed and restoration and improvement works have also completed. Footpath and public lighting works are currently underway.

11. Intention to Defer the making of Shannon Town & Environs Local Area Plan.

The intention to defer the making of Shannon Town & Environs Local Area Plan was proposed by Cllr Gerry Flynn, seconded by Cllr Mike McKee and agreed.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr M. McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerry Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare County Council look at the possibility of a mini-roundabout at the junction at Cronan Pk, Killian, and Rineannaview".

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

A number of factors need to be considered in determining the optimum form of junction control at a given location including accident history, numbers of pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle movements, vulnerable road users, traffic speeds etc.

Traffic counts will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to inform the appropriate junction control type.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr M. McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerry Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That the Senior Engineer give an assessment of the stretch of road between Aidan and Finian Pk., and in particular on the entrance from numbers 25 to 55 Finian and the road surface in that estate. This road, as can be seen, is liable to cause damage to vehicles and also has the potential to cause accidents to pedestrians due to its current condition. This is an unacceptable situation and should be rectified as a matter of urgency."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

In common with many of the older housing developments in Shannon Town the road pavements in Aidan and Finian Parks were built using reinforced concrete construction. While the vast majority of these pavements have stood the test of time a small percentage is in need to repair works. In particular this would include pavements that in the past have had trenches cut to facilitate installation of third party underground services. Necessary repair works at Aidan / Finian have been included in the current years Roadworks Programme.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerry Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare County Council erect warning signs at the open culverts along points where the brambles have been recently cut back".

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The erection of warning signs at these locations will be considered subject to availability of resources and prioritisation of works in the MD.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr Gerry Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare County Council compel, through the instrument of the Derelict Sites Act, the landowner of McMahan's old cottage (Knockalisheen, Meelick) to remove unsightly graffiti, clean up the property and make it safe & secure. (Note: this cottage is located mid-way between the Meelick Tavern and Ballycannon Graveyard)."

Monica Meehan replied as follows:

This property is currently on the derelict sites register. It is noted that a number of years ago, the owner applied for planning permission on the site which was refused. The owner has indicated previously that he did not have the funds to carry out the requested works. As his circumstances may have changed we will engage with the owner again and request that the site be attended to.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr Gerry Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council reposition one of the piers at the entrance of Westbury to facilitate the creation of a right-hand turning lane (exiting estate) and also arrange for the entrance piers to be painted and the dilapidated name plaque for the estate to be replaced.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

In the first instance counts are required to determine the traffic flows in the morning and evening peak times and these will be undertaken shortly. In the event that these counts indicate a requirement for an additional lane for right-turning traffic movements exiting the estate then widening of the junction, including the relocation of one of the piers, will be required. A source of funding will also have to be identified in order to undertake these works.

Cleaning of the existing name plaques and painting of the entrance piers would ideally be undertaken by the local community and grants are available through the Rural Development section of the council to support such initiatives.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council, to curb anti-social behaviour, block-up the vandalised / demolished section of boundary wall between the estates of Parkroe Heights and Ballyglass in Ardnacrusha.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Assuming there are no planning issues and that the residents in both estates are agreeable then, subject to availability of resources, arrangements will be made to re-instate this section of boundary wall at the earliest opportunity.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn.

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council provide a detailed report outlining the process for the extension of Illaunmanagh Cemetery in Shannon as the current site is running out of space.
1/ is sufficient funding available;
2/ When can work commence on extension;
3/ On a related issue when is it envisaged the road serving the Cemetery will be improved as significant damage has been done to this road by commercial development nearby using the access road for heavy vehicles.”

Monica Meehan replied as follows:

Currently there are 110 plots available in Illaunamanagh Burial Ground and it is envisaged that demand will be met for another five to six years. The Council will examine the potential for an extension to this burial ground over the coming months and will report back to the Municipal District when this assessment is completed.

Improvements to the road will be undertaken by year end and will be funded from a Special Contribution as per the condition of the planning permission for this site.

Cllr Gerry Flynn stated the reply was insufficient.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn.

“That a report be provided outlining the current situation concerning the lockout of members of the public trying to gain access to their local cemetery Kilquane Parteen. Currently access is controlled by a local business at limited times and doesn't give consideration for weekend access and some older people and those with disabilities are very upset by this arrangement.”

Cllr Gerard Flynn requested that this Notice of Motion be postponed.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn.

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Pat McMahon agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council initiative a program of cleaning Bus Shelters and ESB Structures around Shannon Town. Some Bus Shelters were erected by the Council and others would be through Bus Eireann. The ESB Sub Stations and Service structures may have safety considerations and cleaning carried out by the electricity board.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Subject to available resources arrangements will be made at the earliest opportunity to undertake any necessary maintenance of shelters erected by the council. The council will correspond with Bus Eireann and ESB in relation to maintenance and upkeep of their structures.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested the ESB be contacted regarding this motion.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon.

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“I request Clare County Council investigate the issues with flooding in the Cul de Sac of Woodland Heights Estate, Newmarket on Fergus, in the vicinity of Gleeson’s and McMahons homes.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

This flooding issue will be investigated with a view to achieving a suitable solution at the earliest opportunity.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon.

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"I am seeking a progress report from Clare County Council with regard to the Taking in Charge of Lough Ash Estate Newmarket on Fergus, on behalf of the long suffering residents of this estate."

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

The Planning Authority is in ongoing engagement with the bondholders to ensure that the maximum amount of the bond is received in order that the outstanding works can be progressed in this development. Clare County Council Water Services has already spent €20k in relation to works on the treatment plant. It is the intention of the Planning Authority to progress this development to taking in charge on receipt of the bond money.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon.

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"Due to the fact that Irish Water have continued to fail to honour their commitment of laying the water pipes and completing the road and footpath works along the Ballycar Road Newmarket on Fergus, I am now asking Clare County Council to repair this road and footpath to the required standard."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The most recent communication from Irish Water in relation to this long-standing issue of which the Shannon MD has been made aware is that they anticipate that construction will commence in Summer 2017. Assuming that this position still pertains then the Shannon MD will arrange to undertake the necessary road and footpath repairs immediately following completion of the IW works.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan.

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Pat McMahon agus glacadh leis:

"That this MD would erect Traffic lights and provide Traffic calming measures at the Lower Square, Sixmilebridge ."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

A traffic calming scheme for this particular junction was funded and constructed in 2014 with the approval of the TII Regional Road Safety Officer. This scheme included the construction of kerbed build-outs, narrowing of the carriageway, installation of anti-skid surfacing on all four approaches to the junction etc. and the junction appears to be operating reasonably satisfactorily at present. The road accident database also indicates that there is no recent history of accidents at this junction. In light of the aforesaid it would be difficult to justify further expenditure on improvements to this particular junction.

Cllr PJ Ryan stated he was disappointed with the response.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan.

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this MD would arrange to have trees pruned and topped at Cappa Lodge housing estate in Sixmilebridge, paying particular attention to the trees at the rear of houses 1 – 18.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The Shannon MD office has had on-going communications from the residents of Cappa Lodge on this particular issue in recent times. Trees at this location were inspected in 2015 by an independent arborist and found to be in a reasonably healthy condition. However further inspections will be arranged later this year with a view to establishing an updated condition rating. Availability of resources to undertake any works deemed necessary is however likely to be an issue and additional funding may have to be identified.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan.

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That this MD would consider moving informational sign on the R472 to the inward bound carriageway on N19.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

In March 2007, the NRA published it’s policy document in relation to signage “Policy on the Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads”. This document was compiled in tandem with the development of a programme of updating and improving directional signage on the national road network and sets out clearly, in relation to the different classes of National Roads, the types of signage that are permissible.

The Shannon Town signs were erected by Clare County Council and part funded by the council and the local business community. However the NRA recommended their removal in 2010 on the basis that they were non-standard, would set potentially difficult precedent to which other by-passed towns on the network could point to and that new By-passed Town signs would be provided for Shannon Town, with a number of facility symbols. Following lengthy and protracted negotiations with the NRA, and having regard to the fact that funding had been provided by the local business community, Clare County Council received a major concession, over and above what would normally be provided to by-passed towns, when it was agreed that these signs would be relocated off the National road and re-erected at suitable locations on the other approaches to the town. While this concession is not ideal it is highly unlikely that any better arrangement could have been achieved.

Liam Conneally to lead the communication with TII.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“In view of the speeding of the traffic on the access road to Lios Anama housing development in Sixmilebridge, I call on the Council to install speed control measures on the main access road to this development.”

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

An assessment will be undertaken in line with Clare County Council's traffic calming policy for residential areas to determine if traffic calming measures are warranted on this road.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerry Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"To ask the Road Design Section of Clare County Council to expedite as a matter of urgency, on grounds Health and Safety, their plans for the section of road outside Meelick National School."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

This project is on the 2017 work-list of the Road Design Office and will be commenced as soon as possible when the Low Cost Safety schemes granted for 2017 have been progressed.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"To follow on from a previous motion, regarding the footpaths of Sixmilebridge, these footpaths are in a very bad state and require urgent attention especially the footpath from The Square Sixmilebridge to the Graveyard, on the Limerick Road."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

A programme of footpath repairs in Sixmilebridge has been ongoing in recent years on a priority basis. Subject to available resources this programme will be continued in 2017 and the section of footpath identified will be considered for inclusion.

30. Correspondence

- Letter received from Guingamp Twinning Association.

Cllr Gerry Flynn recommended this correspondence be brought to the Council's Twinning Committee of which Cllr Pat McMahon and Cllr PJ Ryan are members.

The members welcomed the opportunity to develop economic links with Guingamp.

Cllr John Crowe suggested that a fact finding trip to Guingamp might be in order to further strengthen ties with the area.

Liam Conneally agreed to inform the twinning committee of the expectation for this twinning arrangement.

31. Any Other Business (AOB)

- The members agreed to hold the AGM of Shannon Municipal District on Tuesday, 27th June 2017.
- The members discussed the need for community CCTV scheme in the Shannon Banks area. Eugene O'Shea stated the Council have committed to upgrade some public lighting in that area and funding would have to be found in order to install CCTV here.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator