

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th
July 2018 at 9.45am at the offices of the Municipal District, Town Hall,
Shannon, Co. Clare**

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

Liam Conneally Director of Service, Eugene O'Shea Senior Executive Engineer, Sean Lenihan Senior Engineer, Physical Development Directorate, Murach Shannon, Senior Executive Technician, Siobhán O'Reilly, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies: None

1. **Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2018**

Cllr. Gerard Flynn opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th May, 2018 were proposed by Cllr Mike McKee and seconded by Cllr John Crowe and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

- Clarification re item no. 18 on the May Meeting – this motion was proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr Mike McKee
- It was agreed that Eugene O'Shea, SEE would contact Lucy Curtis, Safety Engineer, TII re finishing landscaping work on the Shannon Town Roundabout.
- Cllr John Crowe had proposed a visit to Ardnacrusha Power Station and this is to be followed up to see if dates can be established.

2. **Minutes of the AGM of Shannon Municipal District held on 19th June 2018**

The minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 19th June, 2018 were proposed by Cllr John Crowe and seconded by Cllr Mike McKee and agreed by all.

3. **Mental Health Resources, Shannon – Garry Fitzgibbon**

Garry Fitzgibbon addressed the meeting and spoke about his experiences and frustrations when dealing with the Mental Health Services in the area. In particular, he spoke about the issue whereby a person with suicidal distress presenting at A&E in Limerick will not be treated in Limerick if they have a Clare address. He stated that this person will also not be admitted to the Psychiatric Unit in Ennis without having first met the community psychiatric team. Mr. Fitzgibbon urged members to use whatever influence they have to ensure that those in need get the help that they need and to ensure that if a person with a Clare address who presents at A&E in Limerick would not be turned away. He thanked members for giving him the opportunity to address them on such an important issue.

He advised Members of the SafeTALK programme which is run by the HSE. This programme prepares a person to assist someone who is in suicidal distress and connects them to suicide first aid resources.

Mr Fitzgibbon advised of other measures being taken in the Community to address mental health issues. In particular, he advised how his local GAA club is appointing a mental health liaison officer and how this could be something that could be rolled out across other organisations (not just sporting organisations) and areas.

It was agreed that the Shannon MD would write to the HSE and Oireachtas members with a view to voicing concerns over the issues raised and to advocate for a change in current practice.

The members thanked Mr. Fitzgibbon for attending the meeting and wished him well.

4 (i) Proposed disposal of land adjacent to Shannon Crematorium

Boundary clarification is to be sought in relation to this matter and it was agreed that this item would be put back to the September 2018 meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Mike McKee and seconded by Cllr Cathal Crowe.

4. (ii) Update regarding Allotments

Murach Shannon, Senior Executive Technician addressed the meeting to update Councillors on proposals for the relocation of the Shannon allotments.

Two sites have been identified as potential suitable locations and initial pre-planning discussions have taken place with the area planner. Both sites are within the required landuse zoning and proposed use as allotments would be acceptable.

Site 1: Green area south of Mary Immaculate Church, Corrib Drive Drumgeely (zoned Open Space)

This open area is at the end of Corrib Drive, adjoining the embankments. It is adjacent to the walking routes along the embankment. The area is in grass and is flat. It has mature trees along the embankment.

Site 2: Tullyglass Hill (zoned Open Space)

This area is in grass cover west of the forestry on Tullyglass Hill. It is reasonably dry and has a natural slope and would accommodate 30 plots within a 1 acre site. It is accessible by road and screened by existing trees.

Following a short discussion, the site south of Mary Immaculate Church was the preferred site. This was proposed by Cllr Mike Mc Kee and seconded by Cllr Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.

5. Update re Sli na Mara Cottage, Rossbracken, Shannon, Co. Clare

Murach Shannon, Senior Executive Technician, briefed members on correspondence that issued from Carmel Green, SEO Economic Development Directorate on the transfer of Sli na Mara Cottage, Rossbracken, to Clare County Council as part of the take over of Shannon Town services from Shannon Development. This was the subject of a 25 year lease which has since terminated. It is intended to allow the current operator (who is not the original leasee) to remain in business in the premises for a short period. It is proposed to enter a caretaker's agreement with the operator for a period of 6 months to the end of December 2018 during which period he will be required to provide adequate insurance on the premises and make payment of rates and any other charges. This proposal was proposed by Cllr John Crowe and seconded by Cllr Cathal Crowe.

6. Shannon Flood Defence Scheme - Shannon Embankment Report

(i) Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, updated members on the Shannon Embankment Report. He advised that the main purpose is to ensure the integrity of the embankments into the future. Currently, sections of the embankments are vulnerable to wave action to the front and to possible overtopping where water levels rise. Also of concern is access to the embankments in the event of a significant breach. Access to some embankment areas is quite difficult. Arising from these concerns, Clare County Council invited the OPW and Shannon Airport Authority to meet to discuss the issues and concerns and as a result a Steering Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, Clare County Council, was set up and a report was commissioned. Malachy Walsh and Partners were employed to assess the condition of the embankments, carry out survey works and gather information about historical events and local knowledge. This information has fed into the report, the publication of which is imminent. Mr Lenihan briefly set out the outcome of the report which identified that there are works to be done to the embankments. Certain areas need to be widened, certain areas need to be raised, other areas need to be strengthened while weaker areas that are more vulnerable will need to be protected using a type of rock armour structure.

Mr Lenihan emphasised that while CFRAMS looked at the airport and town separately, there is a hydraulic link between both and any breach in embankments in one area could lead to a risk in another.

Mr Lenihan stated that Shannon town has secured funding of €6m under CFRAMS. While this is separate to the embankment works, CFRAMS did say that investment of 6m in Shannon is reliant on works being done to the embankments.

Once the report is finalised it will be submitted to key stakeholders. Funding will be sought from the OPW at national level. On completion of the report, consultants will be appointed to develop the design brief and identify detailed work required.

Councillors thanked Mr. Lenihan for his update and said that they welcomed this progress and requested that Mr Lenihan provide them with an update later in the year.

- (ii) Sean Lenihan updated members on the upgrade of the 2km of the N19 road providing access to the airport. This section of the road extends from Drumgeely Roundabout to Knockbeagh Point Roundabout. This road currently comprises primarily of single carriageway cross section. The road requires upgrading and as ground conditions are poor underneath, the likely cost will be in the region of €10m.

A Project Appraisal Plan (PAP) was formally submitted to the TII on the 30th May 2018. This was reviewed and subsequently submitted to DTTAS on the 12th July 2018. Assuming a positive response from the DTTAS, the council will then be in a position to tender for the appointment of a consultant for the planning, land acquisition and design phases of the project.

7. (i) Report on Tullyvarraga Hill Woodland Management Plan

Nic De Jong updated members on progress in relation to the Tullyvarraga Hill Woodland Management Plan. He proposed opening up the woodland in terms of footpath access. The minor paths there at the moment are overgrown and not accessible. It is proposed to extend the main access path to the south and upgrade the secondary paths connecting into the main path. A grant application is to be submitted shortly to secure funding. Eugene O'Shea advised that the Rural Directorate have assisted in the grant application. Costings likely to be in the region of €120k.

7. (ii) Shannon Bunratty Estuary Walkway

Nic de Jong made a presentation on the Shannon Bunratty Estuary Walkway which seeks to establish a public walking/cycle route from Shannon to Bunratty along the Estuary. The project is very much at a preliminary stage. Mr de Jong identified a number of issues including landownership issues along the route; cattle grazing and crossing the route, occasional odour issues from the treatment plant. Preliminary engineering advice has also identified a more significant issue of getting under the dual carriageway into Bunratty and possible ways of addressing this were described by Mr de Jong.

Liam Conneally advised that this was an essential project for the Municipal District and requested the Nic de Jong set out a step by step approach so that there is a clear understanding of how the project will progress. While the Rural Directorate will assist with the funding application, the project is to be led by the Municipal District who will have direct input and control over same.

Liam Conneally advised that only a few landowners were involved as much of the route is already in public ownership. He proposed that the landowners be identified and that a preliminary consultation take place with them to identify what is involved in the preliminary trail. This should be done as soon as possible and ideally before any proceeding with an application for funding.

7. (iii) Shannon Town Park

Nic de Jong updated members in relation to Shannon Town Park. This project has gone back out to tender based on legal advice. The tender return date is now the 20th August 2018. When deciding on how much time to give the new tender process consideration was given to the ERDF funding. The date of the 20th August will allow sufficient time to deliver the project within the timelines allowed within the ERDF funding opportunity. It is envisaged that a contractor will be appointed in September 2018.

8. Urban Regeneration Fund

Liam Conneally, Director of Service advised members of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). As a key part of Project Ireland 2040 - the Government's National Planning Framework and National Development Plan - the fund is intended to drive regeneration and rejuvenation of strategic and underutilised areas within Ireland's five cities, key regional drivers and other large towns.

Proposals will be required to demonstrate that they will be:

- Innovative and transformational urban regeneration projects;
- Public-sector led and with the option of community and/or private sector partners;
- Matched by at least 25% direct funding from other public and/or private sources;
- A minimum bid of €2m;
- A catalyst for development that would not otherwise occur; and
- Likely to leverage significant further public and private sector investment.

The fund will operate on a multi-annual basis with the first call being in September 2018.

€2b in funding is being made available and it is important that Shannon be included as eligible for the funding.

In addition to the URDF, as part of Project Ireland 2040, the Government has committed to providing an additional €1 billion for a Rural Regeneration and Development Fund over the period 2019 to 2027. The Fund will provide investment to support rural renewal for suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. It will be administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This fund provides an opportunity to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland, to make a significant and sustainable impact on rural communities, and to address de-population in small rural towns, villages and rural areas.

Liam Conneally advised that if there are projects ready to go then the Members should bring these to his attention so that he can ensure they get the proper treatment. He stated that the Municipal District will work with the Shannon Group to develop funding applications.

Liam Conneally is to update members further at the September 2018 meeting.

9. Road Works Programme\Roads.

Cllr Cathal Crowe raised correspondence he had received from Bill Clohessy, Protdrine, Cratloe re an ongoing drainage issue as and asked that Eugene O'Shea look into this.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

I'm calling on the Senior Engineer to put in place a comprehensive policy concerning maintenance of the Shannon Municipal District to cover all the necessary ongoing attention required to deal with, grass cutting of roadsides junctions and open public space also control of weeds. Road sweeping and cutting back of trees and shrubs. That the frequency of such measures requested be clearly indicated.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Grass cutting in Shannon Town including open spaces, roadside junctions etc. is undertaken at least fortnightly between March and October with a total of 16 cuts during the growing season. Other locations in the MD are also cut on a regular basis. Weed-spraying and strimming (where grass cutting is undertaken) also forms part of the contractors responsibility.

Weed spraying along roadside kerbs, footpaths etc has been ongoing throughout the MD since late May. Road sweeping is undertaken as soon as practicable following spraying and subject to prioritisation of works.

Cutting back of other vegetation is undertaken between September and February subject to availability of resources.

Cutting of roadside junctions / verges etc. along the following routes is in accordance with the council's policy on such matters :

- Regional Roads
- Strategic Roads linking villages with National and Regional Routes where such villages are not served directly by either National or Regional Routes
- Approaches to towns and villages from points not less than 100m outside speed limit signs facilitating such towns and villages
- Along School Bus and Clare Accessible Transport routes and any other locations where attention is urgently needed to facilitate road safety and usability – subject to availability of funding.

Ultimately the extent of all of the above works is a function of the availability of resources required to undertake them.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

I'm calling on Clare County Council to enhance the green area to the front of the Municipal District Offices in Shannon. The current appearance leaves a lot to be desired and doesn't set a good example for the Council who should be leading the way.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

This green area would undoubtedly benefit from enhancement works given it's location at the MD offices and the council's gardening section has undertaken to carry out these necessary works when weather conditions permit.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

I'm requesting Clare County Council to put a new road surface through the original section of Illaunamanagh Graveyard. The current road surface has eroded over the years and is now very dangerous.

Colette Costello, AO, Rural and Community Development replied as follows:

The members will be aware of the current plans to extend Illaunamanagh Burial Ground and to provide an alternative site for the allotments.

The timeframe for these works is as follows:

May 2018	Surveying & trial holes
June 2018	Design stage
Sept 2018	Part 8 process
Jan 2019	Tender process
April 2019	Works to commence on site

It is proposed that upgrade works to existing road surfaces will be addressed as part of the extension works. The Rural Development Department will work in on a cross directorate basis with the Physical Development Department in order to deliver these works.

Cllr Gerard Flynn advised that this response was not acceptable as the resurfacing works would not interfere with any works being done to extend Illaunamanagh. He asked Eugene O'Shea to address this work.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

Due to the illegal parking of cars on footpaths in the "Square", Newmarket-on-Fergus and the double parking of cars in said "Square", that the Council put in place a possible solution as pedestrians feel very aggrieved at certain times.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The parking of vehicles at this location will be monitored in the short-term with a view to establishing the extent of this particular issue and consideration of appropriate measures to deal with it.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council put in place "No Overnight Parking" at the back entrance (Lough Ash Lake, Kilnasoolagh Park, Newmarket-on-Fergus) as residents can't use said road for exiting and entering and going about their business.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Arrangements to install this signage will be made at the earliest opportunity.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council would resolve the flooding problems that took place last winter in Lisduff, Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

This particular issue arose last winter and appears to be related to an underground blockage or a collapsed culvert under the road. Further investigation will be undertaken with a view to resolving this issue at the earliest possible opportunity.

It was agreed that the Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan would be deferred to the September meeting in light of Cllr Ryan's absence from the meeting.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

That this MD would install traffic calming measures on the R462 near the entrance to Craughaun Cemetery, Cratloe, as there is a major risk to residents in the area.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

That this MD would replace road markings on Drumline slip road from M18 to N18.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

That this MD would repair and resurface R462 between Sixmilebridge Village and Killeen Cemetery.

19. 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 take a more active role in relation to 'abandoned houses'.

Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, replied as follows:

The 2016 census indicated 705 vacant properties in the Shannon Municipal district, in compiling the Vacant Homes Action Plan for Clare we identified that this figure is overstated. The Geo Directory Database indicated there are 197 vacant properties in the Shannon MD. Of the 197, 21 properties are in Shannon town, we are pursuing these properties to ascertain their suitability for social housing.

We welcome discussion with owners of these vacant properties and wish to advise of the various funding mechanisms available to return vacant stock to productive use - namely the "repair to lease" and "buy and renew" schemes (details of which are available on the Council and Department of Housing Planning and Local Government websites).

The Council are hopeful the currently advertised expression of interest call will yield a return.

Cllr Mc Kee advised that this response was more than he had expected. He advised that his NOM was in particular reference to derelict houses in the area and queried if there was any way the Council could CPO same.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

That SMDC request An Garda Siochana to immediately reinstate the Drug Unit to the Shannon District.

This motion was supported by all members and it was agreed that the SMD would write to An Garda Siochana requesting that the drug unit be reinstated in light of growing drug problems in the area.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

That the footpath at the rear of numbers 97 to 99 Aiden Pk. be repaired as soon as possible.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The rear access footpath at this location is in a poor state of repair at present and will be considered for inclusion in the programme of footpath repairs in the MD to be carried out subject to available resources and to prioritisation of works.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

With reference to Mount Ivers Estate – Drainage needs to be flushed out as its causing serious flooding problems during heavy rain.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Pat McMahon agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council (Shannon Municipal District and Housing Department) undertake remedial works at (i) the Knockalisheen Road and (ii) the Kilavoher housing estate to prevent flooding of lands owned by Meelick GAA Club.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Any drainage issues associated with the public road at this location will be investigated as soon as possible with a view to ensuring that drains and culverts in public areas are not causing upstream flooding issues. Associated water courses on private lands are a matter for the relevant landowners.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council, to safeguard the Parteen and Meelick communities from the impact of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR), undertake the following:

(i) Plan for significant improvement works, with the support of the Dept. of Transport, on the northern section of the Knockalisheen Road in Meelick as this will be the docking point for phase 1 of the LNDR and in its current form is incapable of carrying increased traffic.

(ii) Prepare a special masterplan for Parteen village to ensure that the integrity of the village can be maintained and enhanced as plans for phase 2 of the LNDR are progressed.

Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Project Management Office replied as follows:

I wish to confirm at the outset that Clare County Council is at all times committed to supporting all communities throughout the County and will work closely with the local Parteen and Meelick Communities in relation to any concerns that they may have as the Limerick Northern Distributor Road project advances.

Part (i) of the motion relates to Phase 1 of the LNDR Project which is the Coonagh to Knockalisheen section of the Road and its intersection with the existing County Road in Meelick which includes the upgrade from the junction southwards towards Limerick. I presume that the communities concern is that traffic volumes looking to access that section of the LNDR from the Northern side will increase. Increased traffic flows and any consequential impacts on the local road network would have been considered and allowed for in the design. That being said, I will follow up with the Roads Inspector from DTTAS and my colleagues in the Roads Section of Clare County Council to identify if further improvements may be possible.

In regard to Part (ii) of the motion, following consultation with the Planning Department, the Senior Planner indicated that it is an objective of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 to “ensure that the design of the proposed LNDR as it intersects the R464 in Parteen, provides for safe and adequate means of pedestrian and vehicular access and connectivity east and westwards within Parteen and across the route”. Moreover the Plan indicates that from a place-making and amenity a number of enhancements are proposed to the village and it will be necessary to revisit the Parteen plan after the completion of the LNDR. In light of the above objectives and the suggestion in the notice of motion, it is considered appropriate that on or near the completion of Phase 2 of the LNDR, a specific Village Enhancement and Design Plan for Parteen will be prepared.

Cllr Cathal Crowe raised concerns that phase 1 of the LNDR project will create a problem with dual carriageway exit onto a rural road of 5m in width. While he acknowledged that Phase 2 would resolve this matter that Phase 2 might not commence for some time and in the meantime Meelick would have to cope with the traffic.

The enhancement plan for Parteen was welcomed.

28. **Correspondence**

- In relation to the Tim Forde email, Mike McKee advised that this was more than he was looking for and that his request related to the provision of signage into the skateboard area advising that young children were not allowed and also signage advising that older children were not allowed into the playground.

29. **AOB**

- Correspondence re trees in Tullyglass Hill to be put on the agenda for the September meeting.
- Councillors wished to congratulate Fr. Tom Ryan on his move to Ennis and wished him all the best. A letter of congratulations is to be sent from the Shannon Municipal District.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____

Cllr. Gerard Flynn,

Cathaoirleach.

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator

Dated: September, 2018