

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 20th November 2018 at 9.45am at Atlantic Air Adventure, Link Road, Shannon, Co. Clare

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

Liam Conneally Director of Service, Aidan O'Rourke Senior Executive Engineer, Monica Meehan Senior Executive Officer Rural & Community, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer Economic Development, Siobhán O'Reilly Meetings Administrator, Patricia O'Neill Staff Officer.

Apologies: None

Cathaoirleach Gerard Flynn opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Cllr. Flynn thanked Jane Magill and Eddie Ryan from Atlantic Air Adventures for hosting the November Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District at their premises in Shannon and acknowledged the great work carried out by them to date and on securing recent funding in the sum of €160,000 under the Town and Villages Scheme 2018 to extend and upgrade their facilities.

Cllr. Flynn also acknowledged Shannon Town's success on being named overall winner in Category 5 (population centres of 5,000 people) of the IPB Pride of Place Competition.

Cllr. Flynn then introduced Jane Magill, Director of Atlantic Air Adventures and invited her to speak to the Elected Members on their work to date and their ambition for the future in light of securing recent funding.

Ms. Magill welcomed all present stating they were delighted to host the Shannon Municipal District Meeting. She stated that the funding secured in the sum of €160,000 under the Towns and Village Scheme 2018 (Rural Directorate) will go towards a €200,000 project to upgrade and extend their premises including a new coffee shop, a new façade to the front of the building and a new Hanger style building to accommodate 2 aircrafts to be restored. She thanked the staff from the Rural Development Directorate and in particular Colette Costelloe in assisting them with the funding application. Ms. Magill then briefed the Elected Members on the activities of Atlantic Air Adventures and outlined their proposals and vision for the future.

Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural & Community Development stated that the Town & Village Scheme is a significant scheme in aiding projects since 2016. Good quality community projects are assessed under this scheme. The Council have an internal working group that consider applications and make recommendations on which projects go forward for funding. In 2018, a total of €581,000 has been awarded to 4 projects. The focus for 2018 projects is on economic development and job creation for the County's towns and villages.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan who is currently a board member of the Clare Local Development Company (CLDC), which has also provided funding over the last number of years to Atlantic Air Adventures, acknowledged their great work which has contributed significantly to tourism in the region and education in the aviation sector.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 18th September, 2018.

The minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 18th September, 2018 were proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and agreed by all.

2. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 30th October, 2018.

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Budget Meeting held on the 30th October 2018 were proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

3. **Town & Village Painting Scheme (Monica Meehan)**

Monica Meehan outlined the main points of this scheme.

- The purpose of the scheme is to improve the visual appearance of towns and villages enhancing the general area and making the towns and villages more attractive places in which to live and to visit.
- €10,000 is being allocated to each Municipal District and the town or village to be selected is at the discretion of the MD Members.
- The scheme is administered through Rural Development Directorate. It is recommended that each MD select a town/village for 2018 and 2019.
- Funding in respect of 2018 can be drawn down up to April 2019.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested that a special meeting be held to discuss this further which would also include the GMA for the Shannon MD. This was supported by all the Members.

4. **Briefing from Mary Considine, Deputy CEO, Shannon Group**

Cllr Gerard Flynn welcomed Mary Considine, Deputy CEO, Shannon Group. Ms. Considine welcomed this opportunity to update and provide the Elected Members with an overview of the Group's activities. She explained that Shannon Group comprises four strategic businesses which act as a catalyst for delivering economic benefits and opportunities for the west of Ireland and the wider national economy. The four key businesses are:

- (1) Shannon Commercial Properties
- (2) Shannon Airport
- (3) Shannon Heritage
- (4) Shannon IASC (International Aviation Services Centre)

This cluster consists of 65 companies supporting 46,000 jobs with a €3.6 million annual impact.

She highlighted the Groups' aims –

- Provide connectivity for the community;
- Develop the tourism product;
- Providing property solutions for FDI and indigenous industry
- Provide investment for Shannon Free Zone - €100m in the next 5 years
- Growing the IASC Cluster

(1) Shannon Commercial Properties

Ms. Considine informed the Members that by the end of 2018, €40 million will have been invested by the Shannon Group in the Shannon Free Zone delivering 500,000 sq ft of new or upgraded office, manufacturing and warehouse facilities in the Shannon Free Zone. Shannon Commercial Properties also recently claimed a major industry award for regional excellence in property development.

(2) Shannon Airport.

Ms. Considine advised that Shannon Airport has seen growth in passenger numbers of 7% this year to date. New services have come on board to UK, mainland Europe and US.

Since 2014 over €40 million has been invested at the airport on a range of customer-focused projects, including upgrade of the the Shannon Duty-Free shop, boarding gate area, transit and executive lounges etc. In addition, €15m has been invested in the resurfacing of the runway. Shannon Airport was recently awarded the Airport of the Year by the European Regions Airline Association. This award was primarily as a result of the runway resurfacing project.

However, Ms. Considine stated that the Airport is operating in a very challenging market place and Shannon Group are looking to the Government and stakeholders for support to ensure EU connectivity for the West of Ireland post Brexit.

(3) Shannon Heritage

Shannon Heritage is expanding their portfolio of assets and is seeking to promote and develop tourism in the region. Shannon Group will work with Clare County Council and other stakeholders and partner with the IDA to support tourism in the region.

The Members while acknowledging the work of Shannon Group, raised a number of concerns such as competition from Dublin Airport, the issues of connectivity particularly in light of Brexit; the lack of a visible taxi rank at the airport; the lack of incentives to encourage tourists to stay more than a day in the region; and the lack of Council representation on the Board of Shannon Airport.

Liam Conneally thanked Ms. Considine for her comprehensive update and acknowledged the work of the Group. He supported Ms. Considine's comments in relation to securing connectivity for the West of Ireland and emphasised the importance of direct connectivity into Central Europe. This should be clearly supported by the Minister for Transport in light of Brexit and given the peripherality of the region in Europe.

He acknowledged the collaboration of Clare County Council, Shannon Airport and the OPW on the Shannon Flood Defence Infrastructure. The findings on this report have highlighted significant costs in which Clare County Council will be looking to Shannon Airport for assistance in determining how these costs can be met. As Clare County Council is the lead authority, the Chief Executive is making this top priority in terms of protecting the town.

Overall he commended the strong working relationship that exists between Clare County Council and Shannon Group but echoed the sentiments of the Elected Members that Clare County Council is not represented on the Board of Shannon Group.

In response Ms. Considine stated that membership to the Board is a matter for the Minister and is not within the scope of the Group. In the face of stiff competition from Dublin, the Government have pledged support and growth for the Region under the National Planning Framework. Airline connectivity is vital in this regard. She emphasised the priority is to get connectivity first and then market. In relation to Shannon Heritage, Bunratty is the flagship site in the Shannon Heritage portfolio and there are plans to make a considerable investment in the Bunratty site infrastructure which she acknowledged was in need of an overhaul.

Ms. Considine concluded by stating that investment in the Shannon Free Zone is critical to underpin the long term sustainability of the Airport.

5. Proposed Declaration of Public Roads at the following locations:

- (i) An Moinear (Elmwood Drive), Meelick - Proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
- (ii) Ros Silin, Shannon - Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.
- (iii) Lios Anama, House No.'s 93-108, Cappagh Lodge, Sixmilebridge. – Proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and agreed by all.

It was proposed at this stage of the meeting to take item no. 11 - Notice of Motion from Cllr. Mike McKee as Sgt. Seamus Mulligan from Shannon Garda Station was present to discuss same.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr . Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr . Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That in light of recent anti-social behaviour, SMDC, in conjunction with a residents association, install CCTV on an experimental basis at an estate in an effort to provide safety and security.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Community CCTV plays an important role in both law enforcement and securing public order and safety. A community based CCTV scheme intended to support local communities wishing to install and maintain CCTV in their areas was rolled out in 2017 by the Department of Justice and Equality. The scheme is designed to provide financial assistance to qualifying local organisations toward meeting the capital cost associated with the establishment of local community CCTV systems. However, earlier this year a letter was issued by the CCMA to the Department of Justice and Equality asking them to pause the CCTV programme until Data Protection issues have been reviewed. In particular this review seeks to clarify the responsibilities of the Data Controller and the ability of An Garda Síochaná to access data in order to assist with crime prevention and detection. Work is underway between the CCMA, Department of Justice and Equality and the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner to address these issues and we await the outcome of these deliberations.

All the Members supported this motion and, while acknowledging the excellent work of the Community Gardai in the area, concerns were also raised about the negative publicity for Shannon as a result of recent anti-social behaviour and the role CCTV can play in preventing and solving crimes.

Sgt. Seamus Mulligan welcomed this opportunity to address the Elected Members of the Shannon MD. He spoke of their commitment to implementing a 'small area policing' style model of policing. This community policing scheme involves the allocation of a Liaison Garda to every street and estate in Shannon. The Liaison Gardai are actively looking to engage with residents and are encouraging them to set up Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. This type of approach creates an avenue to communicate issues via liaison guards and the approach is working well in some estates. However there are other estates whereby the feedback has been poor.

Sgt Mulligan informed the Members that Shannon Garda Station is a well resourced Garda Station due to the presence of an International Airport on its door step, which is of benefit to the town as when staff are not deployed to the Airport they are available to police Shannon and the surrounding areas.

He also stated when looking at the crime figures in Shannon with comparable sized towns, the number of incidents reported in Shannon is lower. He reiterated that the public need to be reassured that Shannon is a safe place to live and work.

In relation to CCTV he stated that it is a very important tool to the Gardai in the prevention and detection of crime but did point out that it also has huge limitations in terms of cost, storage and Data Protection Legislation

The Members thanked Sgt. Seamus Mulligan for addressing the Meeting.

Update on site selection process for the Allotments.

Carmel Greene advised the Members that due to the proposed revised timelines for the extension of Illaunamanagh Burial Ground into the adjoining site which currently contains the allotments and the site selection process involved in identifying an alternative site for the allotment holders it is now proposed to leave the allotment holders in the current site until the end of 2019. Ms. Greene also stated that she will be writing to the allotment holders with a view to setting up a working group of allotment holders. Concern was raised by Cllr. Gerard Flynn in relation to the limited capacity of Illaunamanagh Burial Ground and requested that Carmel Greene arrange a follow up meeting with the allotment holders.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

Due to safety concerns raised by residents in Dún Áras Estate Shannon in relation to trucks parking overnight in their estate, I am requesting that Clare County Council investigate same.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The Dún Áras Estate Shannon is private property not yet in charge of Clare County Council. That notwithstanding, this office will investigate to determine if there is a road safety issue caused by such parking, and if this is the case these observations will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána for their action.

Cllr. P.J Ryan fully supported this motion and stated that these trucks should be parked in a secure location outside of residential areas.

**7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon
Ar moladh Cllr . Pat McMahon
Cuidithe ag Cllr . Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

I will ask Clare County Council to repair the Cul de Sac at Cois Crann, Newmarket on Fergus as this is in a very dangerous condition.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Repairs to the damaged kerbing at this location will be carried out as soon as resources permit.

**8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon
Ar moladh Cllr . Pat McMahon
Cuidithe ag Cllr . John Crowe agus glacadh leis:**

I will ask Clare County Council to repair the footpath in Kilnasoolagh Park, Newmarket on Fergus, as some of them are in very dangerous condition.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The footpath remediation programme includes for 100m of footpath replacement in Kilnasoolagh Park, Newmarket on Fergus. It is anticipated that these works will take place in early 2019.

**9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee
Ar moladh Cllr . Mike McKee
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

That SMDC cut back the trees / hedging at the side of the Shannon Camogie clubs ground, as they are putting serious pressure on the perimeter fence with the possibility of it collapsing.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This work will be considered for inclusion in tree cutting works programme in 2019 subject to available resources.

**10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee
Ar moladh Cllr . Mike McKee
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

While welcoming the recent forestry work at Tullyglass Hill and the removal of a significant amount of trees which were deemed 'dangerous', I call on the Council to investigate other areas within the Municipal District to determine which areas are in need of similar works as many residents have expressed concerns over the height and stability of trees close to their dwellings.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Over the past number of years, the Shannon Municipal District has undertaken the felling of stands of trees which are of a condition, species and age category which are considered by tree specialists to represent a potential medium to short term issue, where our funds have allowed. Example of this in recent years include the removal of mature poplar trees at the Westbury housing estate entrance, near the Obair Buildings at Newmarket on Fergus, outside St. Senans School, Mary Immaculate Church, Kingdom Hall, Cronan Estate and along Bealach Brí, Shannon. We have endeavoured to balance these tree removals with replanting in appropriate locations. We will continue to be as proactive with this work as resources permit.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested that the contractors be required to clean up the area after the felling in order to make the grounds safer where trees have been removed.

Item No. 11 was dealt with earlier.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr . P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr . John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That this MD would carry out drainage on the Gallows Hill Road Cratloe, adjacent to O'Deas Avenue, as surface water is causing a major flooding problem for residents in the area.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Drainage issues at this location will be investigated with a view to identifying a solution. Should significant works be required, a source of funding for such works will need to be identified.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr . P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That this MD would install dual street lighting on the R471 adjacent to Funeral Home/Auction Rooms in Sixmilebridge.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

An examination of the lighting present at this location will be carried out to determine if additional lighting is required.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr . P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr . Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That this MD would carry out repairs to collapsed culvert on the Sixmilebridge/Windy Gap Road and also erect a stop sign at adjacent junction.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Repairs to this culvert and associated road surface and erection of a stop sign will be advanced as part of our road works programme at the earliest opportunity.

15. 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 Planning Section proceed to a Part 8 Planning process as soon as possible due to the urgency of the required extension to Illaunamanagh Graveyard in Shannon Town.

Colette Costelloe replied as follows:

The members will be aware of the plans to extend Illaunamanagh Burial Ground. A timeframe for same was presented to the members earlier this year however it has since come to our attention that a variation to the existing town plan, is required, to amend the zoning on this site in order to facilitate the extension of the burial ground. The variation process will commence forthwith.

On that basis please see below revised timeframe:

Completion of Variation process	May 2019
Completion of Part 8 process	September 2019
Completion of Tender Process	November 2019
Appoint Contractor	November 2019
Works Commence on site	March 2020

Cllr. Gerard Flynn informed the meeting that he would be looking for a meeting with the Chief Executive and Planning Officials to ascertain the need for a variation to the County Development Plan in order to accommodate the extension of the Burial Ground. Cllr. Flynn again reiterated the limited capacity of the Burial Ground.

Liam Conneally, Director of Service advised that he would liaise with the Senior Planner and advised Cllr. Flynn be make contact with the Senior Planner with regard to the zoning objective.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr . Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That the Senior Engineer inform the Elected Members of Shannon Municipal District concerning the spending of the outstanding GMA Budget through the tendering to contractors of work in the District already identified by Councillors for a number of years and unfortunately not completed and that sufficient work is retained for Council employees.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Completion of the GMA budget works is a significant challenge for this office. In considering how works will be delivered our first preference is having our own works crews complete the work. In planning this schedule of work, we must consider the challenges that the winter period brings with resultant damage to roads & drainage infrastructure and we must have workforce capacity available to deal with these matters as they arise. With that in mind, it is intended to tender out approximately one-third of the value of the overall works, across at least four contracts. The balance of the works will be delivered by Clare County Council staff. This is subject to some amendment dependant on the volume & severity of issues arising over the coming months.

It was agreed by all the Members that a special meeting be held to discuss this further.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr . Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon agus glacadh leis:

That the Senior Engineer provides a comprehensive breakdown of the cost associated with the cleaning up after illegal bonfires in the Shannon Municipal District this year and also the cost of reinstatement of green areas.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The clean up costs of the illegal bonfires in the Shannon Municipal District are estimated at €6,500 including JCB, truck, crew cost and waste disposal cost. While this is the monetary cost, there is also a consequential impact to workflow when a construction crew has to be re-tasked from completion of programmed works to deal with these clean up issues.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr . Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County design, cost and seeking funding for footpaths linking Clancy's Shop, Parteen with

(i) Barry's Shop, Ardnacrusha - over the canal bridge (R463 road).

(ii) Ribbon development of houses on Rosmadda Road.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Outline costings for these works have been prepared for each section as follows:

(i)	Barry's Shop to O'Connors Cross	€200,000
(ii)	Ribbon Development Rosmadda Road to O'Connors Cross	€89,000

These estimates include cost of installation of kerbing, footpath surface, drainage & street lighting. Cost of and land acquisition and boundary set back, and a finalised cost for drainage would be determined at detailed design stage. A source of funding would need to be identified in order to progress these works to detailed design.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr . Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr . P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council liaise with affected homeowners and undertake all necessary remedial works to deal with drainage problems at Portdrine, Cratloe.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

In recent years Clare County Council has carried out the improvement of the road surface at Portdrine Cratloe across a number of different roadworks programmes. This work included for drainage required to ensure the longevity of this road improvement. This office will investigate any outstanding issues and where these issues are impacting the roadway, will arrange mitigation subject to available resources.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr . Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr . P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

To request the Chief Executive of Clare County Council to make funding available for an additional work crew and a new depot yard in the southern part of the county in advance of the incorporation of Clonlara into the Shannon Municipal District.

John Leahy replied as follows:

Following the decision of the Boundary Commission to change the Electoral Areas and Municipal District boundaries in Clare in 2019, a full review of the outdoor operational structure of the Municipal Districts will take place during 2019, particularly from a roads perspective. The review will include outdoor crews and depot locations.

The request outlined in the Motion will be considered as part of this review.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr . John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr . P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting Clare County Council to carry out resurfacing works on the road in front of the Health Centre in Sixmilebridge.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The road at this location will be repaired as necessary and will be considered for inclusion in the 2019 Roadworks Programme subject to availability of resources.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr . John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council install a street light on a pole on the Limerick Road, Sixmilebridge, outside Gavin's house.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This location will be examined for its suitability for improvement to the lighting as part of works proposed to improve safety under General Municipal Allocation funding assigned to this road.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr . John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council install 2 extra street lights between Sixmilebridge National School and Cappagh Lodge Housing Estate and in particular near the bend on the road where the prefabs are located heading towards Cappagh Lodge due to safety concerns for pedestrians as this is a popular area for walking.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

An examination of the lighting present at this location will be carried out to determine if additional lighting is required. The Shannon Municipal District Office will consult with the project managers of the adjoining school development to explore if lighting works at this location will benefit the public area.

24. Correspondence

- Correspondence from Shannon Development Pensioners Association re a naming suggestion for Shannon Town Park –Councillors stated that title proposed was already in use in Newmarket on Fergus. The preference is to maintain the title of 'Shannon Town Park'
- Correspondence from the National Transport Authority re: Bus Éireann service from Shannon and surrounding areas. – Cllr. Mike McKee stated that the response received from the National Transport Authority does not address the issues raised and he is looking for a representative from Bus Éireann to attend the next Shannon MD meeting.

25. AOB

Cllr. Mike McKee commented on the excellent facilities in Atlantic Air Adventures for holding the Shannon MD Meeting in comparison to the limited space in the Shannon Town Hall Meeting room. This was also echoed by all the Elected Members.

Liam Conneally also thanked Jane Magill and Eddie Ryan for hosting the Shannon MD Meeting in Atlantic Air Adventures and also stated that it did highlight the limited space in Shannon Town Hall which needs to be addressed.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____

**Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cathaoirleach.**

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator.

Dated : January, 2019