

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday,
14th May 2019 at 9.45am at the office of the Municipal District, Town
Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

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

Liam Conneally Director of Services, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer, Aidan O'Rourke Senior Executive Engineer, Murach Shannon Senior Executive Technician, Patricia O'Neill Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. Mike McKee and Siobhán O'Reilly.

Cathaoirleach Gerard Flynn opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the last statutory meeting of the current Shannon MD. He thanked all current and past Elected Members and officials of the Shannon MD in serving the District. He also thanked the various organisations and individuals that addressed the meetings of the Shannon MD over the last 5 years. He thanked the media for their attendance and in providing fair and balanced coverage. He also expressed thanks to the public for their support.

The Cathaoirleach along with his fellow Elected Members also took this opportunity to wish Cllr. Mike McKee a speedy recovery.

Liam Conneally, on behalf of the Chief Executive and staff of Clare County Council acknowledged the strong working relationship that exists between the officials and the Shannon MD Elected Members and he also echoed the sentiments of the Elected Members in wishing Cllr. McKee the very best.

Cathaoirleach Gerard Flynn proposed that a minute's reflection be observed and this was agreed by all.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2019.

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March, 2019 were proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

- Cllr. Gerard Flynn informed the Meeting that Shannon Tidy Towns have been awarded a grant of €6,600 under the Community Support Scheme 2019 to include the enhancement of 8 bus shelters in the town.
- Cllr. Gerard Flynn expressed his disappointment that the TII had not progressed work on the Shannon Town Roundabout. Aidan O'Rourke, SEE confirmed that he has been liaising with the TII in relation to this.
- Cllr. Cathal Crowe stated that further to correspondence that issued from Irish Water and Water Services at the March Meeting of the Shannon MD, that there had been several days in recent weeks of water outages due to burst mains in Athlunkard/Ardnacrusha areas. He emphasised that capital investment is now required.

2. Update on relocation of Shannon allotments (Carmel Greene).

A progress report by Murach Shannon, Senior Executive Technician on the site selection of the Shannon Allotments was circulated at the meeting.

Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer outlined:

- That the Council sought the Expressions of Interest from Landowners with sites or land which may be suitable for the allotments.
- One submission was received for a proposed site at the townlands of Ballycaseymore and Clonmoney West, Shannon which met with the requirements of the site selection process.
- The Council propose to enter a legal agreement to progress the project.
- A 20 year lease will be drawn up.
- The Council will bear the capital costs estimated at €55,000.
- The project is subject to planning permission.
- It is proposed that this project will go before the July Meeting.
- Construction to commence during the summer.

The Elected Members thanked Carmel, Murach and all the officials for their work in progressing this project. Cllr. Cathal Crowe suggested that consideration be given to the Gardening Section of Clare County Council having a presence in this allotment, adding that he would like to see the countywide Gardening Section also operating out of Shannon. Cllr. Gerard Flynn welcomed this suggestion.

Liam Conneally added that he would have liked to have seen this project progress sooner but commended the tenacity of the staff that worked to progress this project.

Carmel Greene advised that a letter would issue to the allotment holders in the coming days to update them on the proposed project and the establishment of an Allotment Association will be the key contact group for Clare County Council with the allotment holders.

3. **Update on extension to Illaunamanagh Burial Ground.**

A report on the update of the extension of Illaunamanagh Burial Ground by Siobhán O'Reilly was circulated at the meeting. It outlined that the Part 8 application for the proposed extension has been lodged with the Planning Authority. It is proposed that the Chief Executive's report will be included for consideration by the Elected Members at the July Council meeting.

Liam Conneally welcomed this update stating it was critical use of the land for a town the size of Shannon.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe stated that a number of Burial Grounds are reaching capacity including Ballycannon Burial Ground. This is as a result of a population of 30,000 on the north side of Limerick city with no Burial Ground. He recommended that both Clare and Limerick Local Authorities work together for a future plan to deal with this.

4. **Proposed Declaration of Public Roads at the following location:**

- Lios Anama, House No.'s 59-86, Cappagh Lodge, Sixmilebridge

Proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and agreed by all.

5. **Roads Works Programme/Roads**

6. **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 install a cycle lane/footpath from railway level crossing on Wood Road to Linnane's Residents in Cratloe .

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Whilst a footpath at this location is desirable a source of funding for the construction of this infrastructure would need to be identified. At present the emphasis of the Shannon Municipal District in respect of footpath works is to deal with the huge backlog of repair works to the existing infrastructure throughout the district within the resources currently available. I note that local community groups and landowners have expressed an interest in coming together to advance this development and the Shannon Municipal District office will work with these groups to explore if this project might be progressed in this manner.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan informed the meeting that the local school has introduced a health and wellbeing initiative and is encouraging children to walk to school. He further outlined that the local community are willing to work with Clare County Council for the provision of a footpath which will in turn greatly reduce the cost to the Council.

This motion was supported by all the Members.

7. 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 install traffic calming strips on the R462 between Killeen Cemetery and its junction with the R471

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Funding has been made available for speed reduction measures along this stretch of road. These are likely to include the installation of a driver feedback sign, road marking and additional driver awareness signage, along with some improvement to street lighting. Given the close proximity of residential housing, the nuisance of noise generated by traffic travelling over such strips is a factor in this decision. This will be given appropriate consideration in arriving at the optimal solution within the budget available.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan emphasised the need for traffic calming measures at this location due to the speed that traffic travel on this stretch of road. Cllr. Cathal Crowe also requested that a road safety mirror be installed at the entrance to Killeen Cemetery.

8. 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 continue the footpath from O'Garney Heights to the GAA grounds to meet with the existing footpath R470

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Whilst a footpath at this location is desirable a source of funding for the construction of this infrastructure would need to be identified. At present the emphasis of the Shannon Municipal District in respect of footpath works is to deal with the huge backlog of repair works to the existing infrastructure throughout the district within the resources currently available. In order to progress this matter, an outline estimate of cost for this project will be prepared. All avenues of prospective funding will be examined.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan welcomed this response.

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

That Clare County Council put a sign in place stating "No Overnight Parking" on The Green, in front of the church, Newmarket on Fergus.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Erection of a sign of this nature and corresponding By-law needs to take into account a number of factors including the use by residents in the vicinity of the car park for overnight parking, use of the carpark to encourage and facilitate carpooling in support of our environmental goals, and use of the carpark by persons not living in the immediate town area who wish to visit the town, have an evening out and then take a taxi home. I believe further discussion with local residents groups may be the most appropriate way forward on this matter and I would propose to progress in this manner with the approval of the Councillors.

Cllr. Pat McMahon welcomed this response and also emphasised that further discussion on this issue with local groups is essential.

This was supported by all the Elected Members.

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

I am requesting Clare County Council to resurface the road in Glenn Afrin, Newmarket on Fergus as it has deteriorated significantly.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This road will be examined for its suitability for inclusion in future road work programmes with any necessary repairs to be carried out in the interim.

11. **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 about the junction where the L3162 intersects with the L3156 at Urlanmore, Newmarket on Fergus, I am requesting Clare County Council to review the signage and roadmarkings at this location due to a number of near misses and in order to ensure the safety of all road users.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The signage and road markings will be examined at this location and any remediation required will be carried out as soon as possible.

12. **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 undertake the following essential remedial works in Elton Court, Meelick:

- repair dangerous footpath & collapsing storm-drain in front of house no. 39.
- cut back tall trees at end of the 2nd left-turn avenue of estate.
- repair badly damaged road surfaces throughout estate.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The matters as noted will be examined and consideration will be given to including these works in the current years work programme subject to prioritisation and resources.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe thanked Aidan O'Rourke for his response and emphasised the need for the roads and footpaths to be upgraded.

13. 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 undertake the following essential remedial works in Greenpark, Parteen:

- clean existing storm drains and install, as required new storm drains, in front of house nos. 8 and 10A (house at very end of estate).
- resurface, as promised last year, the section of roadway straight across from Parteen School.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Maintenance of the existing infrastructure will be carried out as soon as possible. The requirement for additional drainage will be examined and considered in the context of available budget and resources. The roadway at this location will be considered for surface dressing as part of the 2019 Road works programme.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe further added that surface water lodges outside house no.'s 8 and 10A and given the budget in place for drainage in the Shannon MD for 2019 this should be considered as soon as possible.

14. 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 undertake essential infrastructural improvements in Westbury, the county's largest housing estate, in advance of 22 new houses being built there. A submission detailing the estate's most pressing needs has been submitted to the Shannon MD office.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The submission will be examined and maintenance issues raised therein addressed as soon resources permit. Significant infrastructural improvements are beyond the scope of funding available to the Municipal District Office but each will be examined and all potential sources for funding considered. This office will continue to make every effort in maintaining existing infrastructure present at the Westbury Estate.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe outlined the key infrastructural improvements required in Westbury housing estate which include a new entrance, footpaths, hedge cutting, public lighting, traffic calming, line markings and street sweeping. He further stated that consideration should be given to the introduction of special development contributions for all future developments in this area.

This motion was supported by all the Elected Members.

15. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn.**
Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That in view of the ongoing difficulties been encountered in relation to the employment of contractors and the obvious issues that occur every year concerning maintenance of the green areas in the District, that Clare County Council employs frontline permanent staff to carry out this crucial service for the various communities in our District that deserve a quality service.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

In the last five years, this district has had three different contractors employed to carry out the grass cutting in the Shannon Municipal District. It should be recognised that due to the nature of the towns layout and construction, any new contractor must go through a process of familiarisation. The first number of cuts with a new contractor will result in issues such as missing cut areas and some quality issues. It is important to assess contractors performance based on their response once these issues are brought to their attention and on this occasion we are satisfied that the contractor responded quickly and appropriately to address issues arising. The transfer of this function to a direct labour service and investment required to acquire the necessary machinery will be explored to determine if this is a feasible option for the future.

A discussion ensued on this motions which received the full support of all the Elected Members. The Members voiced their concern regarding the quality of the work carried out by the Contractors. The inequities on how this service is delivered was also discussed, whereby some housing estates have their grass cut by the Council and in others this is organised by residents/community groups who also make an annual contribution towards this. The Members requested that a review of this service be carried out.

Liam Conneally stated that this is a countywide issue which requires a countywide solution and is not just unique to the Shannon MD. He informed the meeting that he will raise this with the relevant officials.

16. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn.**
Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

I am calling on Clare County Council to address the dangerous stretch of road that has no public lights from the Ballycasey Roundabout to The Springs Hotel (formerly Old Lodge). This is a very well used road and is the main route in to Shannon Town. It is known as Bóthar Mór or the old N19 and also Bóthar an Aerfoirt. What I am asking for is the installation of a number of street lights to be installed by the Council.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Installation of additional lights at this location would certainly be desirable. Funding for small scale lighting improvement is not currently available and any funding arising of this nature will be required for the rehabilitation and improvement to the existing lighting columns and infrastructure in the Municipal District. This proposal will be listed for consideration under future funding opportunities.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe added that up to a 60% savings could also be made with the installation of LED bulbs.

17. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn.**
Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

I am calling on The Economic Directorate & The Rural Directorate to attend the May meeting of the Shannon District to provide an update on the current situation in reference to the extension of Illaunmanagh Graveyard and the relocation project for the garden allotments in Shannon.

This motion was address under item no. 2 (relocation of Shannon allotments) & 3 (extension to Illaunamanagh Burial Ground) earlier in the meeting.

Due to the absence of Cllr. Mike McKee it was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn that Cllr. McKee's Notice of Motions be moved and this was agreed by all.

18. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee**
Ar moladh Cllr. Mike McKee
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting that the double yellow lines between Rossbracken be confirmed as legal or not.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The double yellow lines located within the Rossbracken Estate and onto the junction with Bealach Buí are legally enforceable double yellow lines and were put in place following appropriate consultation with An Garda Síochána under Managers Order no. 29 dated 11 February 2005.

19. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee.**
Ar moladh Cllr. Mike McKee
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting that all traffic road lines within the Shannon MD be renewed.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The tender for Shannon Municipal District line marking is currently being assessed. Each year we endeavour to remark lining where it has faded or been damaged, within the budget provided. This year we intend to continue this work and it would be appreciated if any locations of particular need would be brought to the attention of this office.

20. **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 that the junction at Chaplin's Cross, Rossmanagher be lined and upgraded as this is a very busy junction with traffic coming from Bunratty, Ministers Cross, Cratloe and Sixmiebridge. Presently, there are no roadmarkings at this junction.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The signage and road markings will be examined at this location and any remediation required will be carried out as soon as possible.

Cllr. John Crowe added that there is also a drainage problem in this area which needs to be looked at.

21. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe.**
Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

With regard to O'Garney River, Sixmilebridge, this river had a major dredging, widening and cleaning job approx 15 years ago. Nothing has been done to this river since. This was to be cleaned/dredged in 2017 and 2018, but to date this has not happened. There is a danger of major flooding if this is not done. The OPW gave a commitment that regular cleaning, dredging and sifting of silt would be done. I am urgently requesting that the OPW rectify this immediately as the river is so low currently that this would be an ideal opportunity to commence cleaning.

Cllr. John Crowe expressed concern that there will be a major flood in this area if this work is not carried out and as water levels are low at present this would be the optimum time for carrying out such works. The Shannon MD was requested to write to the OPW to request that these works be carried out as a matter of urgency.

22. **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 that pedestrian crossings be installed in the Square, Sixmilebridge and at the junction to Rossmanagher, Sixmilebridge.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Investigation will be carried out at both locations to determine if they would meet the criteria for funding under the low cost safety scheme 2020.

Cllr. John Crowe stated as the number of pupils attending Sixmilebridge NS has increased significantly, the provision of a pedestrian crossing is paramount.

23. Correspondence

- Email correspondence from Ray O'Driscoll, Shannon Development (reply to Notice of Motion from January Meeting) – *This was noted by the Members.*
- Email correspondence from Gerard Hogan, Regional Manager, National Council for Special Education & Deirdre Tobin, Local Manager re ASD special class for Ballycar National School. - *This was noted by the Members.*
- Acknowledgement letter from Minister Eoghan Murphy's office in relation to Cathal Crowe NOM (no. 17) from the March meeting re possible town status for Westbury, Shannon Banks & Carrig Midhe. *This was noted by the Members.*

24. AOB

- Confirm date for AGM of Shannon Municipal District.
It was agreed that the AGM of the Shannon MD would take place on Tuesday 11th June, 2019 at a time to be confirmed.
- Cllr. Pat McMahan stated that a substantial positive step was achieved in having a motion passed at a recent meeting of the Southern Regional Assembly, supporting an application for the designation and subsequent development of lands zoned as University in the Co. Development Plan 2017-2023 as an economic Strategic Development Zone (SDZ). It is envisaged that this will lead to the creation of 3,500 jobs in the area.

Liam Conneally complemented the work of Councillors Pat McMahon and Cllr. Bill Slattery Clare County Council, who are both representatives from Clare Co Co on the Southern Regional Assembly and the Planning Team in ensuring the SDZ for South Clare and UL was firmly positioned in the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES). Enterprise, employment and education are key in making the area more attractive from an investment prospective.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator

Dated: **July, 2019.**