

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Tuesday, 19th November 2019 at 9.45am at the office of the
Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

Present: Councillors Gerard Flynn (Cathaoirleach), P.J. Ryan, Michael Begley, Cathal Crowe, John Crowe, Pat McMahon, Mike McKee, Liam Conneally Director of Services, Aidan O'Rourke Senior Executive Engineer, Siobhán O'Reilly, Administrative Officer, Patricia O'Neill Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach Gerard Flynn opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2019

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2019 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.

2. Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Budget Meeting held on the 8th November 2019

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 8th November 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Mike McKee and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

It was agreed to take Cllr. Mike McKee's Notice of Motions - Items no. 25 & 26.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee

**Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee
Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn**

That a long term project be initiated to bring the car park areas and footpaths in Drumgeely up to an acceptable standard.

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

A review of footpaths and the car parking area surfacing will be carried out in order to consider these areas for rehabilitation in the 2020 Roadworks programme and future footpath funding.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee

**Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee
Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn**

That the Shannon Municipal District invite representatives of SkyCourt's owners to a meeting to discuss the ongoing closures of retail units within the centre.

Cllr. McKee further added that Clare County Council and the owners of SkyCourt should meet as collective body as a significant length of time had lapsed since their last meeting.

3. Update from Ray O'Driscoll, Chief Operating Officer, Shannon Group plc. on Airport traffic and SFZ developments.

Ray O'Driscoll, Shannon Group plc. briefed members on the 3 business groups namely Shannon Airport, Shannon Commercial properties and Shannon Heritage.

(i) Shannon Airport

- Passenger numbers reached 1.8m in 2018
- 3 new routes – Paris, Vienna and Barcelona - priority now is to ensure businesses and the public support these new routes.
- Commercial Aircraft Hangar (90,000 sq ft) constructed and long-term tenant secured
- Runway upgraded
- Challenges relate to grounding of Max Jet, loss of Norwegian Airlines, the reduction in number of visitors and impact of Brexit.
- Focus going forward will be on increasing routes and passenger numbers through Shannon Airport - both business and tourist traffic. Among other things this will require an increased focus and support for improved public transport connectivity to the Airport.

(ii) Shannon Commercial Properties

- Replacement of assets throughout the SFZ is ongoing and a continued pipeline of investment will have a positive impact.
- 60,000 sq ft of refurbished property has been delivered which has increased rates being paid to Council.
- Shannon is a great place to locate business – adjacent to Airport; access to colleges; good road to work and good place to live and work. This package needs to be sold to prospective tenants.

(iii) Shannon Heritage

- Planning permission granted for 10m upgrade of Bunratty Park. Work to commence within next 12 months.
- Reduction in number of European visitors (10%) in 2019 and Brexit is also having an impact on heritage business.

Mr O'Driscoll advised that the Group have been working closely with Clare County Council in relation to the successful SFZ projects, the Shannon embankments, the N19 Airport road upgrade, Bunratty Folk Park and future refurbishment of properties within the SFZ.

Councillors thanked Mr O'Driscoll for his presentation. Points raised by Councillors included:

- Partnership between the Group and the MD needs to be strengthened
- Lack of Council representation on the Board of Shannon Airport remains a concern
- Promotion (more) and marketing of the Airport is needed
- Welcomed the 3 new routes and developments to date at the Airport
- Importance of Shannon Airport to the economic prosperity of the region in attracting new business and tourist traffic was emphasised
- Complimented the work on the properties within the SFZ

Liam Conneally, DOS advised that:

- As a regional economic driver, national & regional support for Airport is required
- Welcomed the important recent successes in the SFZ, highlighted that resilience, competitiveness and confidence in the Airport/SFZ/Shannon Town product is needed to continue this success.

Mr O'Driscoll advised that he would be available to update members again in 2020.

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

(i) Carraig Midhe, Corbally

Proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Michael Begley and agreed by all.

(ii) Radharc na Coille, Shannon

Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.

(iii) Gort na nUll, Sixmilebridge

Proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

(iv) Brookfields, Shannon

Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Michael Begley and agreed by all.

(v) Oakfields, Shannon

Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Michael Begley and agreed by all.

(vi) Road at the junction with the L7146 to a point 105m north at Aylecotty, Newmarket On Fergus, Co. Clare

Proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.

It was agreed to take Cllr. Michael Begley's Notice of Motions - Items 19 – 21.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar moladh Cllr Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe

That the R-463 roadside drainage in Gortatogher, Parteen, (outside Sheehan's and Mannion's houses) be corrected.

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

The drainage issue at this location will be examined to determine the extent of the issue and what measures are required to resolve. Subject to available resources, the required works will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to alleviate this issue.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

**Ar moladh Cllr Michael Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe**

That junction flooding at Connors Cross (L-3058 & R-463) be corrected.

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

The drainage issue at this location will be examined to determine the extent of the issue and what measures are required to resolve. Subject to available resources, the required works will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to alleviate this issue.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

**Ar moladh Cllr Michael Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe**

In light of the re-opening of the local Post Office being located at Barry's shop, that double yellow lines be installed from the entrance off the R-463 round the corner on the Ardnacrusha road L-3054 to that entrance, in the interests of safety.

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

A drawing for these lines has been prepared and will now be progressed to consultation with An Garda Síochána, and assuming no issue the road marking will take place at the next available opportunity.

5. Road Works Programme/Roads

Aidan O'Rourke Senior Executive Engineer informed the meeting that the Roads Works Programme for 2019 has been substantially completed at this stage with the last 2 projects nearing completion i.e. Aidan and Finian Park and the Ballymurtagh Industrial Estate Road.

The Elected Members also requested that the Senior Executive Engineer:

- Examine the gullies in Aidan and Finian Park following the recent heavy rain and while work was still ongoing in this area. Reports that these are backing up.
- Spray weeds along kerbs, streets and footpaths and clean up same with a road-sweeper.
- Investigate the flooding on the road from Sixmilebridge Village to the station as it would appear that drains are being blocked by leaves.

Aidan O'Rourke stated that a second road-sweeper is taken on at this time of year to deal with the amount of fallen leaves.

6. Economic Development

Liam Conneally, DOS advised that:

- The Council is working as part of a multi-agency support system for both Molex and Avara. A skills matrix is being prepared for both companies and this should assist in promoting staff elsewhere in the vicinity and the wider region.

- The Council is working in partnership with Shannon Group and with clients of Shannon Group.
- A notice had been published on eTenders for a Design Team for Shannon Town Plan. It is anticipated that consultants would be appointed in January 2020 to assist with the preparation of the Plan. URDF Cat B funding(part) being used for this. CCC has control over this funding.
- In 2020 it is intended to have another family and child-friendly opening of Shannon Town Park when the weather improves.

7. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn

That Clare County Council make budgetary provisions to carry out the following essential works on the L3056 in Ardnacrusha:

- Install new signage and road markings at Post Office / ESB Powerstation junction.
- Install an effective drainage system at the bend near McCormack's Garage to channel surface waters away from the road.
- Install road safety measures at the accident blackspot at Fergus Dawson's home (Eircode ref: V94 P23R).

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

- Appropriate signage and road markings at this location will be installed as soon as possible.
- The drainage issue at McCormack's Garage has been examined and the resolution to this issue will be costed and funding applied for via the 2020 drainage grant. It should be noted that not all projects applied for receive funding.
- A speed survey has taken place which indicates that the 85th percentile speed at the location does not exceed the current speed limit. The Road Safety Authority data on Road traffic accidents at this location shows no accidents in the period 2008 – 2015. Whilst the current data available to us does not suggest a particular issue in this location, in recognition of the road geometry at the location and the recent accident this office has committed to improving signage at this location .

8. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

That Clare County Council seek funding from the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Defence, on social inclusion grounds, to help provide a continuous footpath linking the Knockalisheen Accommodation Centre with Meelick Village.

9. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

That Clare County Council liaise with other bodies, including the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport; Fáilte Ireland; Tourism Ireland; Bunratty Search and

Rescue; Bunratty fishermen; Shannon Heritage, Waterways Ireland and Limerick City & County Council with the view to delivering:

- (i) a pontoon marina in Bunratty, and
- (ii) a greenway providing linkages between Bunratty and Limerick City and Bunratty and Sixmilebridge.

This motion was supported by all the members and all reiterated the tourism potential this could bring to the area.

Liam Conneally stated that it is initially intended to progress the Shannon to Bunratty Greenway feasibility and it is envisaged that this could be extended. A source of funding will have to be sought for any greenway proposals as will landowner and public consultation before detailed plans can be drawn up.

At this stage of the meeting it was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon to suspend the standing orders in order to continue with the business of the meeting.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe

That this MD would carry out repairs and surfacing to road number L30321 at Kilnacree, Sixmilebridge

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This road will be examined for inclusion in the 2020 Roadworks programme. In the meantime, repairs to this road will be carried out as resources permit.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn

That this MD would carry out repairs, drainage and clean outlets on the road known locally in Cratloe as Well Road/Station Road between the R462 and the N18.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This road will be examined to determine what maintenance works is required and these works carried out as soon as resources permit.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe

That this MD would request Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to install a pedestrian controlled crossing at the Radisson roundabout in Cratloe.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A letter requesting this crossing will issue from the Municipal District to Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe

Ask Clare County Council to provide driver feedback speed signs on both the entrances to Newmarket On Fergus (on the Ennis Road and the Limerick Road), as there is a need to protect pedestrians and the motoring public.

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

A driver feedback sign will shortly be in place on the Limerick Road. The requirement for a feedback sign on the Ennis road will be examined following a speed survey at this location. A source of funding for further speed control measures will need to be identified.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn

Due to heavy flooding that has occurred in recent times in the vicinity of lower Knocksaggart, Newmarket On Fergus that Clare County Council investigate the infrastructure at this location to alleviate this problem.

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

Investigation of the issue arising at this location will take place as soon as resources permit.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn

That Clare County Council try to eliminate the danger to the motoring public and the residents in the vicinity of Carrigoran and Urlanmore, Newmarket On Fergus.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Investigation of this matter will take place in order to determine the issues at the location and to determine a cost for the solution of these issues.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

I am calling on the Senior Engineer to have the overgrown shrubs cut back and substantially reduced on Gort Road that are situated on Tullyglass Hill adjacent to Tullyglass Court Housing. These shrubs have gone out of control and are impossible to maintain and also present a safety concern.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The hedge at this location will be cut back to a manageable level at the earliest opportunity.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

I am calling on the Senior Engineer to remove some trees to the front of Cronan Park and also 2 trees at the Back of 22 Ballycasey Manor . Removal of trees in Shannon needs to be prioritised as in some cases a greater number of trees were planted in areas that are now not suitable due to safety concerns by local residents.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Shannon Municipal District endeavours to remove dead, diseased and storm damaged trees as a priority when carrying out tree works. It is the case that certain tree species were planted in unsuitable locations in the past. In order to address this issue, Clare County Council has published a guide to the selection of suitable species and proper selection of planting locations. This district carries out replanting of trees in order to ensure that more trees are being planted than removed. These trees will be examined to determine if they are in a condition or situation which warrants removal or other works.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe

I am calling on the Senior Engineer to review the cutting back of overgrown trees / grass and shrubs on roads in the Shannon District and to consult with Elected Members on how this service can be improved as on occasions contractors miss out on some strategic roads and sensitive junctions that should be listed as a regular cut.

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

A review of the districts contract documentation for these works is currently underway to ensure that all best practice measures are incorporated for works to be undertaken in the 2020 season. All suggestions made by the councillors are welcome in improving this service and these will be incorporated where possible within the constraints of the public procurement process.

Items 19 & 21 - Notice of Motions from Cllr. Michael Begley were dealt with earlier in the meeting.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

I am requesting an update on the proposed flood defence works in Gort Na Núll, as funding has been secured for these works

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

Following the representations of the elected members of the Shannon Municipal District, the Office of Public Works have commenced channel clearance works

along the Owenogarney river in the vicinity of Sixmilebridge. The flood defence construction works comprising a 1.2 m high earthen bank will follow in early 2020 once the OPW are finished in the works area.

Cllr. John Crowe thanked Aidan O'Rourke for his reply and requested that he follow up with the OPW on this matter.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

I am requesting an update on the proposed new footpath in front of the new school in Sixmilebridge.

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

These works, which comprise the rehabilitation of a section of footpath in front of the school along with a short section of linking footpath along the bus bay have been awarded to a contractor and it is planned to progress this work during the Christmas school holiday period.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

That this MD trim/cut back all overgrown trees in housing estates in Sixmilebridge in the coming months.

Aidan O'Rourke replies as follows:

Shannon Municipal District team endeavours to remove dead, diseased and storm damaged trees as a priority when carrying out tree works. Where funding remains following this work, trimming can be considered prioritised on a "worst-first" basis at the district level, and typically carried out where public lighting is being covered or a road safety issue has arisen. Tree works are planned for Sixmilebridge in the late 2019/early 2020 cutting season and this office will continue to review and action works as resourcing permits.

Items 25 & 26 - Notice of Motions from Cllr. Mike McKee were dealt with earlier in the meeting.

25. Correspondence

- Bus Eireann re bus stops on the N18 dual-carriageway between Bunratty and Cratloemoyle (reply to Notice of Motion from the September Meeting)

Cllr. Cathal Crowe to clarify which locations on this route where signs have been removed and will email the Shannon MD Office to follow up with Bus Eireann.

26. AOB

Signed: _____
Cllr. Gerard Flynn,
Cathaoirleach.

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator.

Dated January, 2020