

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th September 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, Mike McKee, Liam Conneally Director of Services, Aidan O'Rourke Senior Executive Engineer, Adrian Headd, Senior Executive Engineer, Diane Keane, Executive Technician, Siobhán O'Reilly, Administrative Officer, Patricia O'Neill Staff Officer.

Absent: Cllrs John Crowe & Pat McMahon

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting by welcoming all and in particular welcomed back Cllr Milke McKee and wished him all the best. Cllr McKee thanked all for their well wishes over the last few months.

On behalf of the Shannon MD, the Cathaoirleach expressed sympathies to all families bereaved during the summer.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 9th July 2019

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 9th July, 2019 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and agreed by all.

7. Road Works Programme

It was decided to deal with item 7 on the agenda while awaiting the arrival of the team from the Shannon Wetlands Restoration project.

Aidan O'Rourke updated Councillors on the ongoing works

- Restoration /Maintenance works: 11 projects have been completed
- Restoration Improvement: 6 projects currently underway. Design of Ballymurtagh Industrial Estate Road is being finalised.
- GMA Funded projects: 30 of the 37 GMA funded projects have been completed.
- Tir na nOg playground: Works to commence shortly.

Aidan O'Rourke advised members that the ESB were not amenable to providing lighting at Tailrace Bridge, Parteen. Aidan O'Rourke advised that they would look at trying to source funding to do this work. Councillor PJ Ryan expressed disappointment at the response of the ESB.

Work at Monument Cross needs to be prioritised given the dangerous nature of the junction.

2. Briefing re Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project

Cllr Gerard Flynn welcomed Olive Carey, Ruairi O'Chonchuir and Greg Duff from the Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project.

Olive Carey and Ruairi O'Chonchuir updated members on the Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project. A briefing document was circulated in advance summarising the project to date.

In summary:

- Current work commenced at the end August 2019;
- Initial work involved the creation of a network of three ponds and the creation of a larger pond in the central area of the site – this work is largely complete;
- A limited amount of tree removal and replanting work has also taken place;
- Work on the path network is set to commence in mid-September.

A list of queries for Councillors was raised. The Director advised that the queries raised would be reviewed and the Council will advise what they can do re same. The queries related to:

- the reinstatement of the footpath near the GaelScoil,
- the dumping of green waste;
- the plans for a looped walk on the Western Perimeter,
- Permission in relation to display signs, bins, exercise equipment
- Issue of insurance when/if taken in charge by the Council

The Members thanked the group for their presentation.

3. Shannon Tidy Towns Presentation on general maintenance of Shannon town.

Noel Mulderrig, Treasurer of Shannon Tidy Towns made a presentation to Shannon MD in relation to the general maintenance of the town. He was accompanied by Joe Hogan, Chairman and Frances Kelly, committee member. Issues raised related to the standard of grass cutting and strimming, overgrowth of weeds on footpaths and roundabouts, damaged footpaths and redundant and broken signage.

Councillors responded:

- Considerable funding provided by the Council to Tidy Towns
- Reduction in MD allocation has had an impact on MD Budget/resources
- Aware of issues re quality of work of current Contractor.
- Suggestion that the contract is too big and perhaps needs to be broken into smaller contracts in the future
- Huge amount of green area in Shannon relative to other towns and it was suggested that in the bigger green areas that the amount of grass cutting be reduced allowing certain areas to grow wild with trimming of a small area of this to keep it tidy.
- Footpath maintenance/restoration works had been curtailed due to resources in recent years but this is now being addressed with a programme of works in place.
- Tender for grass cutting in 2020 is a low cost tender award and difficult to build in quality issues.
- Signage will be reviewed

4. Shannon PPP Housing Scheme – Adrian Headd, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing.

Adrian Headd, Senior Executive Engineer, updated members on the Shannon Public Private Partnership (Bundle 2) for the development of 51 residential units on lands at Shannon East. A Briefing Note summarising the details and location map of same was circulated. Torc Housing Partnership have been selected as the preferred tenderer and construction is expected to commence in Q4 2019. Build period of 12 to 18 months

5. Disposal of Lands

- Disposal of Lands(0.205 ha) at Ballycar, Newmarket on Fergus, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (report and map attached).

Proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.

- Disposal of Property at 17 Shannon Banks, Corbally, Co. Clare, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

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

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

- Manor Grove, Ardnacrusha,
Proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

- Dun Aras, Ballycasey More, Shannon
Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.
- Cluain Alainn, Ballycasey More, Shannon,
Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Mike McKee and agreed by all.
- Dun Aras Ave, Ballycasey More, Shannon.
Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Mike McKee and agreed by all.

7. Road Works Programme \ Roads

This item was dealt with after item 1 above.

8. Economic Development

Liam Conneally gave a brief update on economic development.

- Clare County Council and Shannon Group working together to progress projects.
- With regard to the SDZ, the legal entity that will be making the application to the Minister is currently being set up. UL have been asked to feed into the Deloitte Report
- Concern expressed that there is a lack of understanding in Limerick City and County Council re the SDZ with misleading information being publicised.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

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

I am calling on the Senior Engineer in Shannon to carry out a full review of the Traffic Calming measures carried out on Bóthar na Rinne due to the many complaints I have received from local residents living in Cluain Airne and Tradaree Court that find the current situation intolerable.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

In response to ongoing speeding issues along this road, Clare County Council sought and obtained funding for speed control measures under a national pilot project intended to assess the effectiveness of various different traffic calming measures. A draft report on the national pilot project is now available and shows that out of fourteen sites in various locations around the country, the traffic calming installed on Bóthar na Rinne was the most successful nationally, reducing the 85th percentile speed on this road from 57km/hour to 36km/hour. It should be noted that the speed limit is 30km/hour in this area and therefore, further speed control measures are warranted. While it is not possible to justify a significant amendment to the existing speed controls, a review will take place to examine if minor changes might be made to alleviate the issues which are now raised

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I am requesting an up to date report in regard to taking in charge of estates in Shannon. The total number of estates in Shannon been progressed and when is it expected the process will be completed as it is causing some issues for owners of property who can have difficulties accessing public services.

Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer replied as follows:

To date in 2019, two estates have been taken in charge namely Lios Anama (House No's 59 to 86), Sixmilebridge and Rosán, Bunratty.

A further four developments are on the current Agenda for consideration by the members. These estates are Manor Grove in Ardnacrusha, Dun Aras, Cluain Alainn & Dun Aras Ave in Ballycasey More, Shannon.

The Statutory process for Taking in Charge has commenced on an additional eight developments in the Municipal District area and these are:

Castlebank, Ardnacrusha,
Cluainin, Shannon,
Carrraig Midhe, Corbally,
Radharc na Coille, Shannon,
Gort na nUll, Sixmilebridge,
Ard Ratha, Sixmilebridge,
Brookfields and Oakfields, Shannon.

It is hoped that the taking of charge of some of these developments will be ready for consideration by the members before the end of this year.

Contractors have recently commenced remedial works at Lough Gash, Newmarket on Fergus and a contractor is due to commence remedial works in the developments at Brookfields and Oakfields in Shannon in the coming weeks.

We have files on a further 18-20 developments in the Shannon Municipal District which are all at various stages of progression, some of which were only recently added to our register of estates & some of which are still "active sites" and the subject of live permissions.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

**Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan**

That the Senior Engineer have the overgrown trees on Bóthar Mór cut back or removed due to safety concerns, from the mini roundabout at Tola Park to Aidan Park junction. The trees on this road are protruding on to the road and are a serious matter.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The process of cutting back trees along this route commenced in 2018 with a heavy trim taking place between the Ballycasey roundabout and the junction with Bóthar Na Luchra. It is intended to continue this necessary maintenance work and the trees in this area will be considered for trimming as part of the end of 2019/ start of 2020 tree works.

Improvement of road markings requested by Cllr McKee.

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

**Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe**

That this MD would cut all overhanging trees and branches on the road between the Windy Gap and the Limerick County Boundary.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Overhanging branches along this route are the individual responsibility of each landowner. Clare County Council endeavours to cut overhead trees on a route if that route forms part of that years roadworks programme , where this is necessary for the safe execution of works. If there are areas along this route of particular concern, this office will write to the landowner reminding them of their duties under the Roads Act 1993.

There was the view that not all issues are the responsibility of individuals and MD asked to try to seek funding to see if some issues could be resolved.

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

**Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn**

That this MD would carry out an assessment of all footpaths in Sixmilebridge Village and repair same where necessary, and install wheelchair accessible points.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This office will work with our public representatives to identify locations within Sixmilebridge where improvements to paths and wheelchair accessibility can be made. This year, repair works to footpaths have been completed on the Limerick road Sixmilebridge and a substantial walking survey of paths in the town was carried out. Further repairs around Sixmilebridge have been awarded to a contractor and these works will take place in the coming weeks.

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

**Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe**

That this MD would install traffic calming strips on the lower section of Gallows Hill Road, Cratloe adjacent to Walsh's Cross.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This location will be examined to determine what measures might be appropriate to calm traffic.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

**Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan (in Cllr Crowe's absence)
Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan**

I am requesting this Council to provide a start date for the upgrade works on the road at Church View Estate, Sixmilebridge given that an allocation of €10,000 was provided for these works.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A contract has been awarded for overlay works countywide. This contractor commenced work in the Shannon Area last week and while the contractor has not yet provided a programmed date for this section, it is expected that the works at this location will be completed in coming weeks.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

**Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan (in Cllr Crowe's absence)
Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn**

Due to major flooding issues at the following locations and pedestrians getting soaked wet walking on these paths by passing cars and trucks, I would ask this Council to carry out the necessary works ahead of the winter months in order to alleviate flooding in these areas.

- Road from Rossmanagher Cross to the Railway Station, Sixmilebridge, outside of Noel Ryan's house and across from Bridge United Soccer Field, Sixmilebridge;
- Outside McNerney's house and across from Ashview Drive Estate, Sixmilebridge entrance.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Maintenance works to alleviate the issue at the Bridge United Soccer field will be carried out shortly. Given the limited drainage infrastructure at the second location maintenance work will not alleviate this issue. It will be considered for inclusion in the 2020 Roadworks programme subject to prioritisation and available resources.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

**Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan (in Cllr Crowe's absence)
Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn**

I am requesting that the current ESB pole with street light, situated outside Bridge United Soccer Field, Sixmilebridge be relocated back to the boundary fence as it is causing a major obstruction for patrons using the complex. The pole is currently located too far out on the road.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The ESB pole at this location is not the property of Clare County Council but, given that it is not currently in use to convey electricity save for its function as a street light, it is hoped that it will be possible to request its removal and replacement with a standard street light in a more suitable location as soon as resources permit.

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

**Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan**

That the Shannon Municipal District call on Bus Éireann and the National Transport Authority to immediately reinstate bus stops, which were removed without any prior consultation, on the N18 dual-carriageway between Bunratty and Cratloemoyle.

Bus Eireann will be contacted to request that the bus stops be reinstated.

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

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

That the Shannon Municipal District arrange for the spraying of kerbside weeds and vegetation (and road sweeper removal of same) in the Shannon Banks, Westbury, Parteen and Meelick areas.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This maintenance work will be carried out in the coming weeks.

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

**Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan**

That the Shannon Municipal District carry out junction improvement works, including the installation of new safety signage and vegetation clearing at Fian Cross (Woodcock Hill, Meelick).

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This location will be examined to determine what measures might be appropriate.

21. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Passed without debate in Cllr McMahon's absence

That Clare County Council provide a bus shelter at the bus stop on the Limerick Road, Newmarket On Fergus as the general public are waiting at this bus stop during inclement weather.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

I note correspondence on file dated 04/08/17 from the National Transport agency which states that this location falls under their category "A" designation and therefore qualifies under their criteria for provision of a Bus Shelter. They also note "there are no immediate plans to provide bus shelters at this location" and "roll out of bus shelters to all of these locations will take a number of years to complete at current funding levels". A follow up letter will be issued to the NTA. If the answer to this is not positive, quotations will be sought for bus shelters. A source of funding will need to be identified to progress this matter.

22. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon
Passed without debate in Cllr McMahon's absence

That Clare County Council upgrade the footpaths, on a phased basis, from Ballinacragga, Newmarket on Fergus to Dromoland Castle Hotel as it is used by both locals and visitors to the area.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A condition survey of the footpaths at this location will take place to determine what is required. An estimate can then be prepared and considered for inclusion in next year's work programme.

23. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon
Passed without debate in Cllr McMahon's absence

That Clare County Council carry out line marking in the vicinity of Carrigerry Church and Carrigerry House due to high volumes of visitors to both these venues.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This matter will be examined to determine what measures might be appropriate to alleviate issues at this location.

24. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley
Ar moladh Cllr Michael Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe

That provision for the restoration improvement of part of the L-3062 between Clonoughter and the Burlington entrance be included in the 2020 Roads Programme.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The road at this location will be considered for inclusion in the 2020 or subsequent roads programmes.

25. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley
Ar moladh Cllr Michael Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllr Cllr Cathal Crowe

That works be carried out between Barry's Shop and the Headrace (Ardnacrusha) Bridge to enable the construction of a gravelled footpath as this stretch is very dangerous for pedestrians.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The current priority in relation to footpath funding is the restoration and repair of existing paths. An examination of this location with regard to available width and feasibility for construction of a footpath will take place and an estimate prepared for the works. A source of funding will need to be identified for these works to progress.

26. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley
Ar moladh Cllr Michael Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllr Cllr Cathal Crowe

That surface dressing of the Clonlara Road – L-3058, from Connors Cross to Mountcatherine be included in the 2020 Roads Programme.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The road at this location will be considered for inclusion in the 2020 or subsequent roads programmes.

27. Correspondence

- OPW re Cleaning and dredging of the O'Garney River, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare (reply to Notice of Motion from the May Meeting).
- TII letter re facilitation of a meeting in relation to the management of the national road network in Shannon town

Liam Conneally proposed that he along with the Cathaoirleach and Senior Executive Engineer would attend a meeting with the TII. Issues identified include:

1. Drumline Interchange and the traffic issue arising
2. The Shannon Town Roundabout
3. Other issues that the Shannon MD members bring to the attention of Aidan O'Rourke, SEE.

28. AOB

- Cllr Cathal Crowe raised the issue of resourcing the Shannon Municipal District viz an additional outdoor crew. Liam Conneally advised members that a review of the County's MD staffing structures has been undertaken and that the CE will advise all elected members when these changes take place.
- County Memorials Committee: Cllr Flynn advised that any proposals should go through this committee. John Corry AO Roads, is the contact person.
- Liam Conneally advised of correspondence he received from the Bulgarian Ambassador to Ireland re a proposed visit to Bulgaria. He will update members on this once he knows more.
- Proposed date for Budget Meeting – Tuesday 5th November 2019 (afternoon)

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Dated: November, 2019