**Minutes of the adjourned January Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District held on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020 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, Liam Conneally Director of Services, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer, Sean Lenihan Senior Engineer, 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 19th  November 2019**

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 19th November 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

1. **Update on Shannon & Environs Flood Relief Scheme**

Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, updated members in relation to the Shannon & Environs Flood Relief Scheme.

In summary:

* Shannon was part of the CFRAM study with the town and airport identified as an area for further assessment.
* The Flood Risk Management Plan for Shannon proposed the progression of a flood relief scheme to project development level and assessment.
* Given the hydraulic links between the airport and the town, it was considered important to address flood issues jointly and subsequently following collaboration with the OPW and Shannon Airport, the various elements of work were merged to form the Shannon & Environs Flood Relief Scheme.
* A request for tenders for Integrated Engineering and Environmental Consultancy services was published on eTender and the OJEU. The closing date for tenders was extended to the 31st January.
* A review and evaluation of tenders will take place after this date and it is anticipated that Consultants will be appointed by the end of February.
* The output of Consultants work will be the design of the Scheme and it is anticipated that an application for planning consent would be made in 2023 with construction expected 2 to 3 years following the grant of planning.
* Elected Members welcomed the positive developments in relation to addressing flood concerns in both the town and airport.
* Senior Engineer clarified that funding only permits them to progress to detailed design. Once this has been done, the viability of the Scheme from an economic, technical and environmental perspective will have to be considered.
* Commitment of the Minister and the OPW was acknowledged.

1. **Update on the N19 Airport Access Road project**

Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, updated members on the N19 Airport Access Road project.

In summary:

* Funding allocated in 2019 from TII enabled the project to progress to Tender.
* Fehily Timoney & Company along with Carillion Civil Consulting appointed in October 2019. Contract period of 36months.
* The initial phased involves ‘*Scheme Concept and Feasibility’* and this is nearing completion. This essentially is the data gathering phase.
* Next step is the ‘Options Selection’ where all options will be identified and open to consideration.
* Preferred option to be identified by end of year where-after the detailed design and environmental issues will be considered with planning consent also being sought.
* Elected Members raised concerns re the one way/cul de sac nature of the access to the Airport and any proposed option should be of a standard that is consistent with the Airport’s role as an International Airport.
* Senior Engineer advised that the project is a major project and the option chosen will involve more than an upgrade or enhancement of the existing roadway.

1. **Community Grant Scheme 2020**

Patricia O’Neill updated members on deadline in relation to the above Scheme which will be advertised later this week.

* 35k has been allocated to this scheme from GMA
* Deadline for applications to be the *21 February, 2020*.
* Projects to be completed by 30 October 2020
* Final Drawdown of monies by 13 November 2020.

The scheme was proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe.

1. **Update on Allotments Project (Carmel Greene)**

Carmel Green, Senior Executive Officer, updated members on the Allotments project.

* Site selected not in the ownership of Council – legal agreement to rent same for 10 years with an option to extending this to 20 years
* Site works almost complete – not as free draining as the old site
* Allotment Holders have formed an association, with a committee of 9 members. This has made a difference to how things are organised and integrated.
* Allotment holders are paying more for use of the land and this is fully paying for the associated rental costs.
* Signage to be completed
* Should be fully functional by Spring 2020.

1. **Disposal of lands at:**

* **No. 141 Cluain Airne, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

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

* **Deilginish, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

1. **Road Works Programme\Roads**

Aidan O’Rourke Senior Executive Engineer informed the meeting that the Roadworks Programme for 2020 is currently being prepared and will be circulated to the Members in the coming weeks. It is intended that the 2020 programme will build on previous programmes and it is anticipated that there won’t be a significant variation from the level of funding available in previous years.

The Elected Members also requested that the Senior Executive Engineer examine and consider the follow:

* Salting and gritting outside Clonmoney National School.
* A reduction in the speed limit at Clonmoney National School
* Extra drainage at Gallows Hill and Cloghaun Burial Ground.
* Traffic calming measures at Poulawilly Bridge
* Survey of Bridges, previous survey in 2013 examined bridges over a certain size
* Resurfacing of the main street in Sixmilebridge
* Re-introduction of second cycleway/walkway from Newmarket on Fergus to Co-op Store, Drumline.
* Road at Rineanna North
* Mounment Cross – Low Cost Safety Scheme
* Surface dressing at Fergus Drive Road
* Section of the concrete road at Finian Park to be completed
* Footpath from Tullyglass Hill to St. Tola’s School
* Lighting around the local Churches in Shannon.

Cllr. PJ Ryan proposed that the Shannon Parish Priest be invited to attend a meeting of the Shannon MD. This was supported by all the Members.

1. **Economic Development**

Carmel Green updated members as follows:

* Assessment of consultants for Shannon Town Master-plan is ongoing and appointment of same will occur shortly
* It is expected that the URDF funding scheme will be announced by the end of January.
* In relation to Council owned land banks, a master-planning of some pieces of land is being looked at in 2020.
* Elected Members highlighted and welcomed progress made on various projects in Shannon including the Shannon Town Park, Wetlands Project and embankments project and acknowledged all the work being progressed. The importance of place-making and a central focus for Shannon was emphasised.

*It was agreed to take Cllr. Cathal Crowe’s Notice of Motions (Items 15-17).*

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Cathal Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley**

That Irish Water, as a matter of urgency, replace the decrepit 16 inch asbestos-cement water main between Athlunkard Bridge and Larkin's Cross (Parteen).

Elected members stated that full removal and retrofitting required. A leak Detection Report has been carried out by Water Services and Cllr Cathal Crowe said he would be interested to see the findings of this survey.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Cathal Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley**

That Clare County Council in conjunction with the ESB appraise the overall suitability and safety implications of the 3 bridges that span the Headrace Canal and Tailrace Canal at Parteen, Clonlara and O'Briensbridge.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

Clare County Council will consult with the ESB in relation to this matter. The ESB will be requested to provide structural inspection reports in relation to the bridges in their ownership at Parteen, Clonlara and O’Briensbridge to ensure that their condition continues to be suitable and safe for the travelling public.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Cathal Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That Clare County Council pilot a local-authority led CCTV scheme in the Shannon Municipal District.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

In accordance with Clare County Councils CCTV and Other Surveillance Technologies Policy ( Document Reference DP-POL-6, 11/11/19) , the installation of public CCTV will be made using the the following seven steps :

1.A justified need identified by:

(a) Local elected representatives

(b) Community-based not-for-profit registered organisation that is representative of the community e.g. local community council, residents association, area partnerships, community development projects, family resource centres, community enterprise and supported by a local elected representative

(c) An Garda Siochana and requested by a member not below the rank of Superintendent or Acting Superintendent of the district for which the CCTV is requested

(d) Local Authority and requested by an approved officer with delegated responsibility for the prevention, detection and investigation of offences and for the prosecution of offenders

2. Assessment from the local An Garda Siochana Crime Prevention Officer.

3 .Assessment by the County Council, with the oversight of the DPO, having regards to this Policy, Data Protection Legislation and the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

4. Allocation of adequate capital funding for installation and annual funding for maintenance, communications and monitoring costs

5. Public Consultation with the local community where the CCTV will be installed

6. Approval of the Clare Joint Policing Committee

7. Approval from An Garda Siochana Commissioner

The processes are iterative, i.e. applications for CCTV installation will need to pass each step before continuing to the next.

Progression of a project of this nature and scale is beyond the resourcing available at district level. A project team and budget would be required to progress this initiative.

While all agreed that CCTV would be a deterrant, the issues/challenges around data protection and the process required to implement a CCTV scheme were acknowledged. Process is difficult and cumbersome and not straightforward.

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

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I am requesting Clare County Council to extend the public lighting to the roundabout at Carrigoran, Newmarket On Fergus due to the large volume of pedestrians using the footpath in this area.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

Extension to the public lighting at this location to improve the usefulness of this footpath as an exercise route would certainly be desirable. At present, no funding mechanism is available for the progression of street lighting extension projects. This proposal can be added to the list of projects proposed for future funding and actioned when funding becomes available.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That Clare County Council provides a safety barrier at the entrance to the footpath fronting Lough Ash similar to the one located at Kilnasoolagh Park.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

This location will be examined with regard to its suitability for such a barrier and if feasible this will be installed at the earliest opportunity.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That Clare County Council carry out drainage works at Ballinoosky/Urlanmore, Newmarket On Fergus due to flash flooding after very heavy rainfall. This creates a major disruption to local residents and motorists.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

A detailed examination of this issue will be required in order to determine the scale of and possible solutions to this flash flooding matter. The implementation of which will be subject to the availability of resources.

*Notice of Motion no.18 from Cllr. John Crowe was taken with the following Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Ryan.*

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That this MD would install a pedestrian crossing at Cratloe NS, plus upgrade public lighting to LED lights and replace worn road markings .

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

A study will be carried out under the low cost safety scheme criteria to determine the locations suitability for a pedestrian crossing. An examination of lighting and road markings at this location has taken place and we are awaiting the return of cost proposals with a view to upgrading these at the earliest opportunity.

Elected Members emphasised that this is a dangerous junction and the Council should take a proactive approach to addressing the safety concerns rather than waiting until an accident happens.

**18**. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That Clare County Council provides enhanced safety measures at St. John’s National School, Cratloe in the interest of public safety including upgrading of public lighting, line marking and the provision of a pedestrian crossing.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

A study will be carried out under the low cost safety scheme criteria to determine the locations suitability for a pedestrian crossing. An examination of lighting and road markings at this location has taken place and we are awaiting the return of cost proposals with a view to upgrading these at the earliest opportunity.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That this MD would install traffic control lights plus a pedestrian control crossing at the junction of the R462 with the R471 lower square Sixmilebridge, with the increased volume of traffic passing through Sixmilebridge this junction is becoming extremely dangerous.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

A low cost safety scheme was constructed at the junction of the R462 with the R471 in 2014 which included build –outs , hazard markers, anti-skid surfacing and extensive line marking works. These works followed an examination of the junction by the Councils road design section.

As with any junction design , a number of factors need to be considered in determining the optimum form of junction control at a given location including accident history, numbers of pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle movements, vulnerable road users, traffic speeds etc.

Traffic counts will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to determine the extent of the change in throughput at this location in recent years.

*Notice of Motion no.19 from Cllr. John Crowe was taken with the following Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Ryan.*

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That this MD would carry out repairs to the boundary wall at Nix's bridge Meelick and also resurface the adjoining road.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

Repairs to the road edge here will take place as soon as resources permit. The road surface will be examined to determine whether the current condition warrants improvement or repair and if necessary these will be carried out in the Roadworks Programme 2020 subject to the availability of resources.

Cllr PJ Ryan advised that he had raised this previously in 2018 and nothing has been done. He requested that it be addressed as a matter of urgeny.

*Items 15 – 18 were dealt with earlier.*

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

In the interest of the safety of pedestrians and motorists, I am requesting Clare County Council to carry out urgent improvement works on the road from Meelick Church to Ballycannon Heights including safety measures at Brennan’s Cross.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

A low cost safety scheme was constructed at the junction of the L3068 with the L3032 Brennan’s Cross in 2016 which included extensive signage, resurfacing of the road and a refresh of line markings. These works followed an examination of the junction by the Council’s road design section.

The road section will be examined to determine whether the current condition warrants improvement or repair and if necessary these will be carried out in the Roadworks Programme 2020 subject to the availability of resources.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

Due to the ongoing problem with dog fouling on the footpaths in Sixmilebridge and in the Shannon Municipal District, I am requesting that a pilot scheme be implemented in Sixmilebridge on measures to eliminate dog fouling on footpaths.

**Brendan Flynn replies as follows:**

The Environment Section propose to raise awareness about dog fouling and owner responsibility in the form of a social media awareness campaign. There are permanent metal signs and foam signs placed in different areas around Sixmilebridge and Shannon. This campaign will also be promoted through our Greener Clare programme and in print in the Clare Echos weekly green page.

The Environment Section will also carry out random spot checks and issue fines where relevant. We aim to be proactive in this regard and educate people as to their responsibilities and the health implications of dog fouling.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

The Council improves sight line at exit from Illaunamanagh Graveyard.

**Aidan O’Rourke replies as follows:**

Maintenance work to improve the sight line at this junction will be carried out as soon as possible.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That all road signage in Shannon be repaired and road markings enhanced.

**Aidan O’Rourke replies as follows:**

We have recently undertaken a review of all street signage along the major routes in the town. Works to replace damaged or missing signs and for the removal of unnecessary or defunct signage will follow in the coming weeks.

Each year we endeavour to remark road lining where it has faded or been damaged, within the budget provided. This work will continue within the 2020 Roadworks Programme, assuming a similar level of discretionary and maintenance funding is available.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That a briefing be provided in relation to a number of proposals in Shannon.

1. The extension to the graveyard.
2. The new garden allotments.
3. Flood defence on the embankments and the new N19 roadworks for Shannon International Airport.

Item (ii) and (iii) were addressed in the earlier part of the meeting and a written update was circulated in relation to item (i). The written update advised that the tender assessment process was in the process of taking place and that once finalised, a contractor would be appointed in February with works expected to commence in early March.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That the feasibility of installing a cycle lane from Connors Cross (Clancys) to Larkin’s Cross on the R463, taking into account the up-grading of sections of footpath along this stretch, be examined.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

A feasibility study in relation to the installation of a cycle lane from Clancys Cross to Larkins Cross will be requested from the Road Design office.

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That hedge cutting be carried out on a short stretch of the L-3058 between Connors Cross and Mountcatherine.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

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

1. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That two pedestrian crossings be included in any future traffic control measures at Larkins cross.

**Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:**

Any proposed design for traffic control at this location will be put before the members of the Shannon Municipal District for approval. A design for traffic control at this junction should take into account the safe movement of pedestrians in accordance with good design practice.

1. **Correspondence**

* It was agreed that Newmarket-on-Fergus would be the town put forward for the Paint Scheme in 2020. This was agreed at a previous meeting in 2019.
* Update on Illaunamanagh Burial Ground Extension already dealt with.
* Request from Duchas na Sionna to address the MD in relation to a project involving works to Hastings Cottage. It was suggested that given that the group were involved in preparing a funding application in relation to same that this matter be considered as soon as possible. It was proposed that a Special Meeting be arranged to facilitate same. A request was made that Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Directorate would attend this meeting to advise the group.

1. **AOB**

* March Meeting to take place on the **10th March at 9:45am** in Shannon Town Hall.
* Cllr PJ Ryan proposed that consideration be given to a suitable memorial for the late Cllr Mike McKee. As the new park is already named as Shannon Town Park, it was accepted that this would remain. Cllr Ryan proposed that the bandstand in Shannon Town Park be dedicated to the memory of Cllr Mike McKee and that a plaque be placed on the band-stand. This was seconded by Cllr Gerry Flynn and agreed. Liam Conneally is to ask those in his Department about the feasibility of putting same on the bandstand.

**Signed:**

**Cllr. Gerard Flynn,**

**Cathaoirleach.**

**Signed:**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Dated March, 2020**