

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Tuesday, 30th June, 2020 at 2.30pm in Treacys Oakwood Hotel,
Shannon, Co. Clare.**

Present: Councillors Pat McMahon (Cathaoirleach), Gerard Flynn, P.J. Ryan, Michael Begley, Donna McGettigan, John Crowe, Pat O’Gorman, Liam Conneally Director of Services, Jason Murphy Meetings Administrator, Aidan O’Rourke Senior Executive Engineer and Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 29th May, 2020

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Friday 29th May, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Michael Begley and agreed by all.

2. Road Works Programme

Aidan O’Rourke, Senior Executive Engineer updated the Members

- While there was a delay to the commencement of the Roads Works Programme due to the Covid-19 pandemic, works are now underway.
- Surface dressing to commence within the next fortnight, weather conditions permitting
- Preparation of drains for overlay
- Ardnacrusha drainage grant works completed
- Focus on the Roadworks Programme in order to draw down allocated grant funding.
- Special Meeting with the Shannon MD Elected Members to be held next month re Low Cost Safety Scheme for Westbury and Larkins Cross.

The Members raised the following issues:

- Old N19 travelling past St. Tola Park – overgrown vegetation on the roadside
- Traffic calming measures at the Wells School - while a recent speed survey carried out indicated a majority compliance with the current speed limit of 80km/hour and would therefore not qualify for funding under a low cost safety scheme, the Members requested that alternatives be looked. A reduction in speed limit at this location was discussed with the Members highlighting the lengthy process involved in reducing speed limits. Aidan O’Rourke has agreed to look at alternatives with the Members.

3. Economic Development

Shannon Town Centre Master Plan

Following from the presentation delivered by Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner at the May meeting of the Shannon MD, a draft of the plan will be completed in quarter 3 of 2020. The Members will be updated on the progress of this plan.

Clare Economic Taskforce

- Held its first inaugural meeting on 26th June
- The Taskforce was convened by Pat Dowling, Chief Executive to inform and guide appropriate economic measures that will stimulate job creation in County Clare.
- Group comprises of public and private sector leaders and is chaired by retired Ambassador Noel Kilkenny, former Consul General of Ireland in New York.
- Identify the immediate priority actions required to maximise the area's local and regional economic potential.
- Develop future resilience in the local and regional economy.
- Guide Clare County Council in delivery of key strategic projects.

The Members welcomed the implementation of this Taskforce. Cllr. Gerard Flynn voiced concern that no Elected Member is currently sitting on this Taskforce.

Liam Conneally acknowledged concerns raised by the Members and stated that Members would be kept up to date with the progress of the Taskforce and the views at the Meeting will be conveyed to the Taskforce on what is required.

4. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Mc Mahon**

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I will ask Clare County Council to repair and upgrade the road near Markham's Cross, Clenagh, Newmarket On Fergus, as it is a danger to road users.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This roadway is not due for upgrade under the current years programme. It will be examined to determine what immediate repairs are required and these will be carried out as soon as resources permit. It will be considered for inclusion under future Roadworks Programmes.

5. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Mc Mahon**

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That this Council install traffic calming measures opposite the green area in Gleann Cora, Newmarket On Fergus to protect the children that frequently use this area.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The issue of traffic calming measures for this estate was brought to the attention of this office previously, particularly in relation to proposals to extend the estate. Recent planning permission granted by Clare County Council for additional construction within the estate includes for both traffic calming measures in the new build area and a contribution towards the cost of provision of simple traffic calming measures in the older section of this estate. On receipt of this funding it will be possible to install appropriate measures here.

6. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Mc Mahon**

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I am requesting this Council to repair the pathway leading from Kilnasoolagh Church to Lough Gash Estate, Newmarket On Fergus.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The repair of this footpath was explored previously but was not progressed due to a difference in viewpoint between the Council's insurer and the current designation of this footpath as a protected structure under the Council's County Development Plan, which at that time could not be resolved. Given the heritage status of this path it is expected that the repair cost here would be greater than a normal footpath and a source of funding may be required to be identified to progress. The issues present will be explored to see if a resolution or compromise is possible.

7. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**
Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

That this MD would replace public light units with LED lights in the Brickhill Estate, Cratloe, there are four lights in this area one of which has already been replaced with a LED unit.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

As part of a national plan to reduce energy usage and to make public services more environmentally friendly, the national roll out of a programme to convert street lights from traditional lighting heads to LED is currently underway. The first works contract is expected to go to tender within the next month with works expected to commence in quarter one of 2021. The first works contract includes for the Cratloe area and all public lighting will be replaced by LED during this contract. In advance of this, any head replacements which are taking place are being carried out to a standard equivalent to this contract to ensure consistency and this is why some areas have a mix of old and new technology currently.

8. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**
Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That this MD would carry out surface repairs and drainage to the R471 at Cappa, Sixmilebridge, this section of road has been in very poor condition for a long number of years.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A section of the R471 in the vicinity of Cappa has been identified as requiring improvement due to poor drainage having caused damage to the roadway over the long term. Improvement to the drainage and restoration of the road surface at this location has been included for in the 2020 Roadworks Programme and the works here are to be carried out in the coming months.

9. **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**
Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

That this MD would request the OPW to cleanup and make safe the riverside walkway between Nix's Bridge and Landsdowne Bridge in Meelick as it is severely overgrown, this would be an ideally leisure walk in the current climate for the people in the surrounding areas.

It was agreed that the Shannon MD office would make contact with the OPW in relation to this motion.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

**Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I am requesting that traffic calming measures be introduced in the village of Cratloe due to concerns about speeding traffic through the village.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The R462 running through Cratloe village will be re-examined to determine if the construction of the controlled pedestrian crossing last year has had an impact on the speed of traffic through the village. In response to recent notice of motions in relation to the other main road within the village, the L3102, a check on accident history and a speed survey was carried out. No accidents are recorded on the database for the road within the village boundary for the available data period. The speed limit along this road is 50km/hour. Speed testing has indicated the 85th percentile speed in the vicinity of the school is 48km/hour with an average speed of 35km/hour. There are extensive school approach warning signs and road markings in the vicinity of the school. In response to an incident which was reported to the Shannon MD office last winter and past recent Notice of Motions on that matter, street lighting in the area has been upgraded with additional lights installed and its intended to refresh all road markings at the location during the 2020 Roadworks Programme.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

**Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

Due to the significant deterioration of the roads in the village of Sixmilebridge as a result of the volume of traffic, I am requesting this Council to upgrade these roads.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

As part of the Shannon Municipal District Roadworks Programme 2020 a section of one of the main routes into Sixmilebridge along the R471 will receive an upgrade. All roads in the district are rated using a system which has been established on a national basis to keep track of the status and condition of roadway. The condition of road surface within Sixmilebridge will be kept under observation and considered for inclusion in future Roadworks Programmes.

Cllr. Crowe welcomed the upgrade of the R471 and requested that consideration be given to a traffic count which would show the volume of traffic going through Sixmilebridge village on a daily basis.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

**Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I am requesting this Council to carry out works at Feenagh Cross which would improve visibility lines and to improve signage at this junction for motorists as it is a very busy junction.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

It is noted that this junction has a significant bend on approach from the Sixmilebridge side which impacts on the sight distance available when coming from the side roads. A study will be carried

out to determine the extent of this issue and to establish its suitability for inclusion for funding under the low cost safety scheme for 2021. In the meantime, arrangement will be made to ensure the maximum sight distance is available by cutting the grass present at the junction.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That double yellow lines be installed on the L-3062 outside the Burlington Plant at Gillogue to prevent dangerous parking on the bend.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The situation which has resulted in parking at this location will be examined to determine a suitable course of action to deter parking on this bend.

Cllr. Begley outlined that as a result of the car park at the Burlington Plant being closed, cars have been parking on the bend. He will speak with the management of the plant with a view to reopening part of the car park which may alleviate parking on this bend.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That this MD would liaise with Waterways Ireland and the OPW to play their part in preventing the spread of Giant Hogweed along the Errina Canal and the Blackwater River in the general area of Gillogue and Mountcatherine, Clonlara.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A study including a plan for control of invasive species and in particular giant hogweed was produced by Clare County Council in 2018. The Municipal District Office will make contact with Waterways Ireland and the OPW. Control works along a stretch of this route where it is hoped to revive a public walkway from Gillogue to the University of Limerick Campus were carried out by the Killaloe Municipal District. As giant hogweed requires attention over a number of years to ensure control it is hoped to continue control works here subject to availability of funding.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am asking this MD, when road projects/works require traffic controls/reduction to single lanes/temporary local road closures etc that the elected members would be notified a few days in advance.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

All works undertaken by Council staff on the public roadway require traffic management protocols. Any such works on roadways inevitably create some form of inconvenience for the road user, whether it is waiting for a red light to go green or having to divert adding distance to a journey. Traffic management is always selected to provide the operatives carrying out the works and the travelling public with the maximum safety possible. A practical solution to this motion is that works of a significant duration, or where it is identified that considerable disruption to the

travelling public will take place, notice be given to the Elected Members when works are to commence.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Ar moladh Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That this MD would put in place a safe access route from St Helen's Park to Shannon town centre. There is no safe route for pedestrians and they have to pass 2 very busy roundabouts.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

No established pedestrian route exists to this estate at present. The N19, including north of the roundabout to St. Helens Park is within the control of Transport Infrastructure Ireland and its contractors. The support of Transport Infrastructure Ireland and a source of funding for these works will need to be in place to progress a footpath link for this estate. This office will examine potential options for a pedestrian link to the estate and cost these options.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Ar moladh Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That this MD put speed ramps or speed reduction in on the road passing the new housing estate Inbhear Na Sionna along the back of Inis Rí, as according to residents cars are speeding up that road and there is a lot more traffic on it now.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

An examination of this issue will take place when traffic levels return to normal to determine what measures, if any, are appropriate in this instance. A source of funding will need to be identified for any such identified works to take place.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Ar moladh Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That this MD looks at clearing footpaths in Purcell Park, O'Brien Park and Delacy Park. Footpaths along the back of the houses are overgrown, with some having tree roots coming up through them.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

These footpaths will be examined to determine their condition and what measures are suitable for their rehabilitation. Typically footpaths with root damage will need to be replaced and if possible these will be considered for inclusion in footpath remediation works, subject to available resources.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman
Ar moladh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman
Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That this MD would look at putting in place a system where no recyclable materials would be turned away from the Shannon Recycling Centre in Smithstown, Shannon.

Brendan Flynn replied as follows:

Clare County Council has a Certificate of Registration issued in 2006 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to operate a Civic Amenity Site/Recycling Centre in Shannon. The Certificate of Registration permits the recovery/transfer of the following material which can be recycled: glass, aluminium cans, steel food cans, textiles, paper, card, cardboard packaging, plastics/plastic bottles, metal, timber, oil and filters, paint/paint cans, green waste, used batteries and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). The Council will accept all of the above material subject to the limits as set out in the Certificate of Registration. If there are other materials which potentially can be recycled and we can source a service provider to collect those materials we can review such proposals.

A discussion ensued on this motion. The Members highlighted that not all Recycling Centres within the County are accepting the same recyclable materials and recommended this be reviewed. While it was acknowledged that the Recycling Centre in Shannon and staff that manage this centre provide a great service the possibility of expanding this centre should be considered. Liam Conneally will communicate this to the Director of Physical Development with consideration taken of the capacity of the current facility, population and catchment area.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That this MD would liaise with An Garda Síochána with the view of keeping Shannon Town Park free from antisocial behaviour.

Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:

An Garda Síochána in Shannon are very responsive to such policing matters and this will be raised with the appropriate officers by the Shannon Municipal District.

It was agreed that Shannon Gardaí would be invited to a future meeting of the Shannon MD.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

**Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

That The Minister for Social Inclusion be requested to address the loss of the valuable support services provided by Shannon Community Office for many years and assisted the public in the Shannon Municipal District. The recent dismantling of the community office structures and the previous successful co-location of The Citizens Information & ClareCare services have ceased providing this support at local level and I am calling on the Minister to urgently address the need for adequate assistance and support for the public in the Shannon Municipal District.

Cllr. Flynn further added that the Community Office had provided a wide range of support service in Shannon and the surrounding areas for 40 years and emphasised that the need for these support services were greater in the current climate. This service has now been reduced from a 5 day per week to 2 day per week. He called on the new Government to provide support and funding for the full reinstatement of this service.

This motion received the full support of the Members and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to the Minister in this regard.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr.

I am calling on Clare County Council to address the criteria for funding community organisations involved in development on public property. I am requesting the Council to make specific policy procedures on applicants to consult with the public in the vicinity of the proposal and also have written consent from the Senior Engineer at District level before projects begin.

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:

Clare County Council invites applications for grant support under the Community Support Grant each year following the adoption of the annual Council budget by Elected Members. The grant scheme is coordinated by the Rural Development Directorate and targets supports to voluntary groups across all four Municipal Districts. The project assessments are recommended to the full Council Meeting for approval following the input of the Council's 'Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland'. This is comprised of 8 no. Elected Members with 2 no. representatives from each Municipal District.

This motion is timely. Arrangements will be made for this Working Group to consider the criteria for such projects in greater detail going forward. The engagement of voluntary groups with the Municipal District staff including the engineering, technical, administration, management and rural & community development officer would be beneficial to the process and development of local projects. This engagement is a practical proposal and provides the opportunity for a useful partnership and mutual support.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn welcomed this response and commended Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development for his comprehensive response.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr.

I am calling on The Senior Engineer to repair the eroded footpath from Tullyglass Hill and Tullyglass Crescent that joins up with Gort Road. This is a vital link for the public in Shannon and has been neglected for a long while and needs restoration .

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This footpath will be examined, costed and considered for inclusion on the footpath remediation works subject to available resources.

Aidan O'Rourke stated that any commitment given in the past in relation to this footpath will be taken into consideration.

24. AOB

Cathaoirleach Pat McMahon thanked the press for attending and providing balanced coverage in the media on the Shannon MD Meetings

This concluded the meeting.

Cllr. Pat McMahon
Cathaoirleach

Jason Murphy
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____ September, 2020