

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District
held on Friday, 24th July 2020 at 10.00 a.m. at Treacy's Oakwood
Hotel, Airport Road, Shannon, Co. Clare**

Present:

Councillors Pat McMahon (Cathaoirleach), P.J. Ryan, Michael Begley, Donna McGettigan, John Crowe, Gerard Flynn, Pat O’Gorman, Jason Murphy, (Senior Executive Officer), John Gannon, (Senior Executive Engineer), John Strand, (Executive Engineer), Anne Marie Kelleher, (Staff Officer) and May Finucane, (Asst. Staff Officer).

Cathaoirleach Pat McMahon opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Section 38 – Westbury and Larkins Cross

John Gannon updated the Members in relation to the Section 38 at Westbury and Larkins Cross and stated that the matter had gone through the Public Consultation Process. Two minor observations that were received had been dealt with. The works in Westbury will involve a left hand turning lane, additional footpath and upgrading the traffic signals at the junction. It is a Low Cost Safety Measure and the work will be done through the Area Office this year.

Cllr Begley stated that there was an issue exiting from the minor junction at Westbury and the Shopping Centre and asked whether the recent approval for planning awarded to Lidl at that junction has been taken into account.

John Gannon confirmed that the upgrading of the signal system has considered the development of that site.

Cllr Flynn stated that Westbury and surrounds is a growing community and that road safety measures were important to the community. He stated that he is satisfied with the design.

The Section 38 was proposed by Cllr Begley and seconded by Cllr Flynn.

John Gannon then updated the Members in relation to proposed works at Larkins Cross. Grant aid has been received (Specific Improvement Grant). The proposed works include improved turning lanes, signals, line marking and pedestrian crossings. There will also be a Section 10 in due course to modify the Speed limit from 80 kph to 60 kph.

The associated improvement works on the bridge in Gillogue will be completed next week.

Cllr O’Gorman said that he is delighted to see Gillogue being improved and mentioned the traffic lights at the Lame Duck Pub. He had concerns about earlier proposals to install lights on the bridge where only 1 car can go at a time and asked that the lights not be put there as the volume of traffic is minimal and the road would have to be widened to facilitate traffic lights.

John Gannon acknowledged Cllr O’Gorman’s observations and confirmed that the earlier proposal to install traffic lights were not currently being considered.

Cllr. Begley stated that he would like to compliment John Gannon for dealing with the problem from when it was first raised and that he is delighted that the repair work is being carried out on the bridge. He also stated that the community is in favour of the work at Larkins Cross but had concerns about the exits.

John Gannon stated that the exits/entrances will be signalised and that consideration had been given to the properties directly adjacent to the junction.

Cllr. Ryan stated that with the traffic coming from the Canal Bridge, he didn’t know how effective the lowering of the speed limit would be and would traffic calming measures be more effective.

John Gannon stated that Cllr Ryan’s observations were correct and that by reducing the speed limit this will act as a traffic calming measure as the speed limit then at the junction will be uniform.

The works were proposed by Cllr. Begley and seconded by Cllr. Ryan.

Cllr. McMahon said that it will be a huge bonus that these works will be carried out.

Cllr Begley then asked what the timeframe would be for the works and John Gannon stated that it would be as soon as possible and that the Area Office will take on most of the work and a tender will go out for Larkins Cross.

Section 183 – Housing

Cllr. Flynn stated that he is familiar with the site in question and asked if it was put up for sale on the open market. He also stated that the site has been problematic for years and would the Council be exposed to litigation going forward and if that were the case he suggested that the sale be suspended.

Anne Marie Kelleher stated that the property has been on the open market for a long time and that the current offer of €70,000 is an unconditional offer and is the best offer that has been received. There is a single dwelling on the site that needs substantial work and the Council would find it difficult to find a suitable tenant if they were to renovate the house.

Cllr. Flynn stated that the Council cannot be compromised in this sale if there was to be litigation and it would be a serious matter.

Cllr. Begley stated that he could not see how the Council would be compromised and that the buyer would have to be aware of all aspects of the purchase – Caveat Emptor. He stated that the sale of the property should go ahead.

The Section 183 was proposed by Cllr. Begley and seconded by Cllr. O’Gorman that the sale of the property proceed.

Cllr. Flynn stated that he had not received an adequate response and would like it noted for the record that he is not happy for the sale to proceed.

Cllr Flynn also stated that this was not a “Special Monthly Meeting” as meetings are not held on a monthly basis (i.e. the meeting was a “Special Meeting”)

The Cathaoirleach then thanked everyone for attending.

This concluded the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____