

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 19th January, 2021 at
9.45am in Glór, Causeway Link, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present: Councillors Pat McMahon (Cathaoirleach), PJ Ryan, Gerard Flynn, John Crowe.

Attending remotely: Councillors Donna McGettigan, Pat O’Gorman, Michael Begley.

Officials Present : Jason Murphy Senior Executive Officer, Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

Attending remotely: Liam Conneally Director of Service, Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer.

Cathaoirleach Pat McMahon opened the meeting and welcomed all present both in-person and those attending remotely having due regard to the current Covid-19 restrictions. He also welcomed Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer to his new post in the Shannon MD and looked forward to working with him. He also paid tribute to Aidan O’Rourke, Senior Executive Engineer for his service to the Shannon MD and wished him well in his new post.

The Cathaoirleachs comments were reiterated by all the Members.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District held on 17th November 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.
2. Draft Standing Orders for the Shannon Municipal District Meetings were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.
3. Roads/Roads Works Programme
Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that due to the current level 5 restrictions the current works that are undertaken by the outdoor crews are essential maintenance works including footpath/pavement repairs, drainage works and repairs to potholes. As restrictions are lifted normal works will resume.
Cllr. Gerard Flynn, suggested that Members email the Senior Executive Engineer a list of roads that require works within the district.
4. Economic Development
Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer briefed the Members on following:
 - Works that were due to commence on the pedestrian access from the Burlington factory to UL along the Canal bank before Christmas had been put on hold due to the current restrictions. It is anticipated that as soon as restrictions are lifted, crews will be mobilised and work on this project will commence.
 - €14,000 has awarded under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for the provision of bicycle racks, benches and information interpretation boards on the Shannon Loop Yellow Route walkway.
 - Shannon Town Master Plan – Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner is now leading this project and will be working with all staff, Members and stakeholders to progress this plan.
 - Shannon Town Centre is currently under new ownership and it is crucial that the Shannon MD engages closely with the new management.
 - A total of €300,000 has been awarded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 for the district for the following projects.
 - €200,000 – Newmarket On Fergus (Tradaree building) - completion of phase 2 of the regeneration of derelict building, to include, commercial enterprise hub, a commercial cookery school, a hot desk holistic office space for remote working and a youth café.
 - €100,000 – Parteen – the installation of a footpath/cycle path to complete the connection between Parteen village and Larkins Cross.

- Applications for funding under Active Travel 2021 is currently open for walking and cycling projects. The identification of such projects within the district by the Members is welcomed.

Liam Conneally addressed the meeting and commenced by welcoming Tom Mellett to the Shannon MD Team. He also acknowledged Aidan O'Rourke's service and contribution to the district during his time as Senior Executive Engineer.

He updated the Members in relation to the following:

- Shannon Town Centre owns a significant area of ground around the town centre. It is intended to work closely with the new owners of the Town Centre to progress projects as part of the Shannon Town Masterplan.
- The Chief Executive is committed to finalising the Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) at UL Campus. It is intended that the SDZ application will be made to the Government in Quarter 1 of 2021. Clare County Council are engaging with all the stakeholders to progress same.
- Planning applications – the number of planning application received during the last quarter of 2020 increased significantly from previous years, which should transpire to greater economic activity for the County in the second half of 2021.

The Member raised concern regarding the progression of Phase 1 of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR) and the how this project is tied in with the SDZ.

Liam Conneally stated that Phase 1 of the LNDR is crucial to the SDZ and will be working with colleagues in Limerick to progress the delivery of this phase.

**5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

Although almost a year away I am calling on this MD to have an official Christmas tree with an official turning on of the lights for next December and every year that follows.

I feel that it is something that is needed in the park for the people to take ownership of the park and something like this will help create a sense of that ownership.

Having watched the video on YouTube of carols and Santa in the park bandstand, I have to commend those that with short notice created this for those to watch at home and abroad and felt it would be good for community spirit to continue this.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Following the success of the Carolling event during Christmas 2020 and the installation of seasonal lighting in Shannon Town Park, the team in the Shannon Town Hall intends, with the support of the wider community in Shannon Town, to build upon the festive theme for Christmas 2021. The Shannon Town Masterplan will be delivered during 2021 and it is anticipated that it will further inform how we can strengthen the sense of place in Shannon Town.

**6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I call on this MD to identify an area that can be made into a permanent pollinator area, creating a meadow for long term conservation.

Meadows when created with the right plants can attract a multitude of wildlife. They are ecologically important as they provide areas for bird nesting, food gathering and pollinating insects. While I feel Shannon is lucky enough to have conservation areas such as the wetlands and this will add to that.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Shannon Municipal District Office is currently preparing a Bio-diversity Plan for the town of Shannon. The public will be invited to make submissions in February, before the Plan is finalised and

comes before the District Members for adoption. One of the outcomes will be the identification of suitable pollinator areas.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I call on this MD to locate and secure an official off the lead areas for dogs. As pointed out at the last Council meeting, dog fouling is a serious issue, if an area is given where dogs can be let off the lead, I feel this will help with the dog fouling issue. There are plenty of green areas that could be used.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

An area designated for recreational activity in the County Development Plan would need to be identified and a planning application submitted following public consultation and design. Any works will need to be compatible with Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, and the Control of Dogs Act, 1986 as amended. Shannon Municipal District will contact Local Authorities where this type of facility is in existence to determine a roadmap to developing such a park.

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

That this MD would carry out repairs and surfacing to Craughaun Graveyard Road at Brickhill Cratloe. This road is in very poor condition as it is over 30 years since it was last surfaced by Clare County Council.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This road is not currently a public road. As such, a source of funding such as LIS would need to be utilised, the Municipal District will be happy to work with any local residents or Community Groups to this end.

Cllr. PJ Ryan informed the meeting that historically the land was donated by a local landowner for the provision of this road and it was agreed at the time that Clare County Council would maintain this road.

Tom Mellett agreed to follow up on same and will revert to Members in relation to same.

This motion was supported by all the Members.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan
Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That this MD would install a drain at the old army water reservoir on the Knockalisheen/Windy Gap Road to alleviate surface water flowing in the direction of Brennan's Cross.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

In 2019 we carried out works from Brennan's Cross towards Mellick village, the intention for 2021 was continue drainage improvements s from Brennan's Cross along the Knockalisheen Rd. We will assess this request as part these works and report back to Cllr. Ryan on the matter.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan
Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That this MD would carry out drainage works on the R471 at it's junction with the L7032 as there is a serious amount of surface water on the road.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This location will be assessed to determine what works will be required to alleviate this issue and I will report back to Cllr. Ryan on the matter.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I ask Clare County Council as a matter of urgency to erect speed signs near primary schools in Newmarket on Fergus due to increase in student levels and a steady rise in traffic.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

A Driver Feedback sign is currently on order and will be in situ before the end of April.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am requesting this Council to repair the car park beside the Catholic Church, Newmarket on Fergus (Ballycar entrance) as it is in a bad state of repair.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Shannon Municipal District has appointed a Contractor to complete these works. Due to current Covid-19 restrictions works are on hold until a change of the guidelines.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I ask Clare County Council, with the co-operation of the Gardaí for a reduction in speed limit to 50km in the vicinity of the Well's School, Newmarket on Fergus and a zebra crossing to be put on the tunnel exit, near the Co-op store. Adequate signage also to be erected indicating to motorist that they are approaching a school and that the road would be gritted during frosty weather.

John Gannon replied as follows:

Under the Active Travel Allocations received for Regional and Local Roads 2020 it is proposed to provide a controlled pedestrian crossing adjacent to the M18 underpass near the Dairygold Co-Op Superstore at Hurlers Cross, Shannon.

The Road Design Office will, in conjunction Shannon MD, progress appropriate design solutions in the vicinity of Well's School as soon as practicably possible in the early part of this year

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am requesting Clare County Council to put in place a schedule of works program for the Shannon District in consultation with Elected Members concerning the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) and indicate remaining funding available from previous year and proposals for 2021 .

The current situation is not working as there is a lack of clarity and transparency in my opinion and can be very frustrating when funding is available but not spent in a timely manner. I would also suggest that projects identified by the Elected Members and in most cases in consultation with the Senior Engineer are costed and if sufficient Council workers are not available for this work I would suggest that the work be put out to tender and prioritised for delivery. The GMA is a very small

amount of funding available to the Elected Members and can have a huge impact on public services in communities, it is an addition to the district budget available to the Senior Engineer.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The Team in Shannon MD continues to review how it reports and communicates activities to the elected members, particularly in respect of the GMA. Feedback is always welcome in that regard. It is the intention of the Municipal District team to meet with the elected members over the next two weeks and agree a package of measures for funding from the General Municipal Allocation fund. These works will be costed by the Municipal District Team and scheduled for completion in 2021. The programming of works will also allow for completion of any outstanding works from 2020.

This Motion was supported by all the Members.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

In view of the small window of opportunity that exists between October and February to deal with the removal or pruning of trees and shrubs in the district, I am requesting that this work be carried out as soon as possible and that in future the process involving the tendering out of this work be completed before September of each year in an effort to gain a maximum impact from the set time available.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Hedge maintenance is currently scheduled to comply with Wildlife Act and the prohibition of cutting season. We have engaged with contractors to obtain costs for outstanding areas that need attention before the 1st March cut-off.

Tendering for this work is carried out at the start of each year, however, each preceding contract runs until a new contractor is appointed and all works are programmed over a 12-month period, taking into account the nesting season as defined in Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Heritage Act 2018.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am calling on Clare County Council to put funding in place for improvements to the public lights in Purcell Park/ O'Brien Park/ Delacey Park/ Collins Park And Gort Road.

The public lights in these areas are very old and problematic, upgrading to led lighting should be considered and also a complete check of the wiring system as I have been informed that this area is compromised. I would suggest that initially a cost of works should be carried out.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Following consultation with my colleagues in the Transportation Dept I can confirm that Clare County Council will seek a quotation from our maintenance contractor to cover the above-mentioned works. Once this is received, we will be in a position to identify appropriate funding.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That an overlay of the L-3058 (Connors cross to Clonlara) be included in the 2021 Roads Program as this highly trafficked road has deteriorated dramatically over the last few years.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This road is not currently on the roads programme for 2021. Should additional funds above our 2020 allocation become available this road will be considered.

Tom Mellett further added that while this road did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Roads Works Programme for 2021, maintenance on this road will be continued.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That the restoration/improvement of the L-7038 (Part of) be included in the 2021 Roads Programme.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This section of road is approximately 4.2km in length and spans Shannon and Killaloe Municipal Districts. It is not currently on the Roads programme for either Municipal District. Should sufficient funding become available this road will be included in the Shannon Municipal District programme for 2021, if not I will speak with my counterpart in Killaloe M.D. with a view to inclusion in the 2022 programme for each District.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That the footpath section at McCormick's garage entrance on the L-3054 (Barry's Cross to Ardnacrusha) be re-instated following drainage works carried out by the Council in 2020.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Drainage works to this section of path and road were completed in 2020. An inspection has been arranged for this location and should works be required they will be carried out.

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

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I ask that the Shannon MD Engineer would meet with the Engineer from the Killaloe MD and put a proposal forward to get work carried out on a road at Kilnacree to Ballycar North, Sixmilebridge. This road is divided between the two MD'S and is in need of a lot of repair.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

As this road is located within two municipal districts, Killaloe and Shannon, I have spoken with Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer in the Killaloe Municipal District. Although this road is not on the current roads programme, it will be considered for inclusion in the future roadworks programme. In the meantime, the Shannon Municipal District undertakes to carry out essential maintenance on this road in 2021. Niamh Madden has indicated that she is agreeable to carrying out same on the section located in the Killaloe Municipal District.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman
Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That Clare County Council take in charge the new road at Cappagh south Sixmilebridge. As the road, footpaths and public lighting are in place to a high standard.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Following consultation with the Planning Dept. I have concluded that it is more appropriate to assess this road under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 (as amended) rather than the Planning Act. The Section 11 process involves a technical inspection of the road with a report being put before the Municipal District members for a decision to declare the road a public road. I will arrange for this report to be prepared and come before the next meeting.

A discussion ensued in relation to the process involved in relation to Taking In Charge particularly where infrastructure is in place.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman
Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman
Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I ask this MD to finish off the back alleyway to the rear of the houses on Lodge Road Sixmilebridge.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

I will arrange for an assessment of this location. This will determine the level of works required. Once complete an appropriate source of funding will need to be identified and I will keep Cllr. O’Gorman briefed on this matter.

This was the subject of previous Notice of Motions raised by Cllr.’s PJ Ryan and John Crowe who again supported this motion.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe
Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am requesting this Council provide speed ramps/traffic calming measures at Inis Orga, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare. This is a busy estate and 2 children have been knocked down here.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The initial 70m of this road would benefit from some form of traffic calming. The Municipal District does not have a budget to cover this type of work and so a funding application for Low Cost Safety Improvements will need to be submitted to TII in an effort to obtain adequate funds.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe
Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am requesting this Council to upgrade the Boola Road, Meelick. This road is very bad with potholes and gully and drains blocked up and is hazardous to traffic and pedestrians.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This road has been upgraded in recent years but has suffered damage due to excessive levels of rainfall coming from adjacent lands. Maintenance works have been carried out in the past week and this will continue as the need arises.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am requesting this Council to put a pedestrian crossing at this junction to cross the Shannon road, at Rossmaher Road junction, Sixmilebridge. There are four housing estates and many private houses with the occupants using this junction to walk to school and local shops. It is exceptionally busy at school and peak work times.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office will assess this location to determine the most appropriate form of crossing and a location for same. Once this is complete the M.D. Office will seek to identify an appropriate source of funding to allow the project proceed to completion.

Cllr. John Crowe further added that planning permission for large developments should include a provision for pedestrian crossing or traffic calming measures.

Liam Conneally replied stating that while he noted Cllr. Crowe's comments, contribution levies are included as part of the conditions of planning permission for large scale developments for the provision of infrastructural needs.

26. Correspondence

- Community Supports Scheme 2021 – Noted by the Members.

27. AOB

Illegal encampment at the carpark in Illaunamanagh

The Members raised concern about the illegal encampment at Illaunamanagh Car park situated at the entrance to the graveyard and crematorium. While acknowledging the efforts of Clare Co Council and the Gardaí in trying to resolve the situation it is considered that this is a national issue which the Government need to take proactive measures in relation to such illegal encampments. Concern was also expressed about the negative image it gives of Shannon.

Tom Mellett replied that a large number of complaints were received from the public in the Shannon MD office in relation to this. While constrained in what can be said at present, the Shannon MD office are continuing to liaise with the families, Gardaí, Housing and Environment Sections to resolve the situation.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn highlighted the amount of surface water from the new extension of Illaunamanagh Graveyard. He requested that the drainage system be examined before the works are finalised.

This concluded the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____