

# **Minutes of March Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016 at 4 p.m. at Vandeleur Walled Garden, Kilrush, Co. Clare**

## **Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

Cllr. C. Curtin,

## **I Láthair:**

Cllr. P.J.Kelly, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. M. Hillery.

## **Officials present:**

Ms. Anne Haugh, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service

Mr. C. Feeney, A/Senior Executive Engineer ,West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Ger Dollard, Director of Service

Mr. Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer ,Transportation

Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

## **1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 21st January 2016**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr.Chambers & seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Cllr. Slattery looked for an update on when works would be carried out to the N67 at Rineen. C. Feeney indicated that works were likely to commence in April. T. Tiernan provided a brief update on storm damage works for private landowners on the Shannon Estuary & the Atlantic Coastline. J. Corry indicated that he was continuing to liaise with Human Resources regarding getting a full time Traffic Warden for Kilrush.It was agreed that the free 2 hour parking would remain in place until the May meeting of the MD & that an update would be provided on parking for the May meeting.

## **2. Minutes of Special Meeting of the West Clare Municipal District to consider distribution of GMA Allocation for 2016.**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Nagle & seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

## **3. Minutes of Special Meeting of the West Clare Municipal District to consider draft Parking & Harbour Bye Laws for Doolin Pier.**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Nagle & seconded by Cllr. Slattery.

## **4. Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2016**

T. Tiernan provided an update on the draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2016. He outlined that the funding provided and the proposed works only dealt with 4.9% of the road network which meant that these stretches of road were only being looked at every 20 years as opposed to every 10 years. In answer to a query on the flexibility of funding to deal with Motions raised by Cllrs etc T. Tiernan outlined that there might be a small element of discretion with regard to the Discretionary Grant allocation. T. Tiernan outlined that the €2.8 m allocated under Tranche 1 for flooding damage would deal with a separate programme of works. He also added when questioned that no funding allocation was being provided for the LIS scheme as part of the SMDW. The members acknowledged that national grants were decreasing each year & that it left the Council with a very difficult job in trying to maintain its road network. The Cathaoirleach indicated his disappointment with the level of funding being provided for the SMDW. The SMDW for the West Clare MD was proposed by Cllr. Nagle & seconded by Cllr. Keating. The Members thanked T. Tiernan.

## **5. Draft Clare County Council Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2020 (previously circulated)**

G. Dollard provided an update. He outlined that the Plan had been circulated previously. He also mentioned that the members would have recd a report from the Senior Planner which outlined the consistency of the Plan with the Co. Dev Plan. He added that the Plan needed to go before the MDs & that there was a statutory requirement that they would adopt a resolution about the consistency of the LECP with the Co. Dev Plan & that the actions in the Plan should be considered. He added that the overall plan would be coming back before the Full Council for adoption when the SPC & the LCDC had considered it. The statutory resolution regarding the consistency of the LECP with the Co. Dev Plan was proposed by Cllr. Nagle & seconded by Cllr. Keating.

## **6. Establishing of Town Teams – Discussion document**

G. Dollard went through the discussion document that had been circulated. He added that the discussion document was going before the MDs for their consideration before going before the Full Council. He queried if the members saw a merit in establishing Town Teams & if so should you go with a Capital town or with identified REDS. The Cathaoirleach suggested that you would go with the REDS. G. Dollard also indicated that consideration would need to be given to how much it would cost & as to how it would be staffed etc. A lengthy discussion followed where concerns were raised as to how it would be staffed & resourced. It was recommended that it should go back to the CEDRA. The members thanked G. Dollard.

## **7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery**

***“That Clare Co. Council would resolve the flooding of the Ennistymon to Corofin road near Rath Church”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

*Reply*

*The flooding issue that occurs on the L-1118 at Rath Church, Corofin appears to be caused during periods of prolonged intense rainfall which the area has endured both this*

winter and during the winter of 2009. The rainfall for the period December 2015 has been estimated at twice the usual average for that month. The road and surrounding land is situated in a natural depression with no outfall pathway for surface water to discharge to. The drainage at this location relies on subterranean swallow holes which appear to be at capacity due to the prolonged rainfall. The water levels are being monitored and have dropped on occasion only to rise again following any significant period of rain.

Unfortunately there is no obvious cost effective solution to resolve the problem other than to wait for more favourable weather which will naturally alleviate the issue.

When the water levels recede we will inspect the swallow hole to determine if there are any blockages which may account for the slow dissipation rates.

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

### **8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery**

***“That the water mains from Mullagh Cross to the Crosses of Annagh be upgraded”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

*Reply*

*Irish Water has approved a capital project to decommission the Rockmount water treatment plant currently supplying parts of Milltown and rural areas to the north of the town, and to supply water to these areas from the Old Doolough treatment plant which already supplies most of the town, Spanish Point, and the rural areas to the south.*

*Laying of new mains and installation of a pumping station, as elements of this project, are already in progress between the town and Rockmount itself. The project will also include upgrading of parts of the mains on the line from Old Doolough treatment plant to Milltown via Mullagh and the Crosses of Annagh.*

*Which parts of the Old Doolough to Milltown line will be upgraded, and the programme for doing so, will be determined by Irish Water.*

*Response Ends*

Sean Ward, Senior Engineer Water Services

### **9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery**

***“That the signage for Milltown Malbay and Spanish Point be provided or upgraded at the following locations;***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

*Reply*

*Milltown Malbay and Quilty are both adequately signposted at the junction of the N85 and R460 in Inagh. It would not be appropriate to include Spanish Point at this junction as it has no direct link to the R460 or R474.*

*We will re-arrange the signs at Macks cross to provide greater visibility for the Spanish Point Sign. We will erect a sign for Spanish Point at the square in Miltown and the junction of the N67 and L2106.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery**

***“I am requesting that Clare County Council strengthen and re-surface road number L10462 from Derry Bridge to the junction of the N67 at Kilshanny.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

*Reply*

*The L1046 is included in the Draft 2016 Municipal District Schedule of Works & it is proposed that 500m would be improved.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery**

***“I am requesting that Clare County Council alleviate the problem of excessive surface water flowing down the Mine Hill in Doolin by opening and clearing all side-drains and also to repair the pipes/drains entering the river at the Bridge across from McGanns Pub.”***

Cllr. Slattery agreed to defer this Motion to the next Meeting

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery**

***“I am once again asking Clare County Council to seriously consider providing a pedestrian crossing from the Surf Shop on the Miltown Malbay road in Lahinch across to the Old Promenade, in the interest of public safety.”***

Cllr. Slattery agreed to defer this Motion to the next Meeting

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***“That the Senior Executive Engineer include the Square Carrigaholt for resurfacing as the works have been repeatedly delayed in anticipation of sewer installation works that have yet to be sanctioned”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

*Reply*

*Until clarification regarding the proposed sewerage scheme for Carrigaholt is received from Irish Water it would be premature to carry out re-surfacing works in the square at this time.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***To ask the Area Director for an update on the proposed walking and cycling route from the old West Clare Railway Station House to Brews Bridge”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*There is no funding stream at present in the DTTAS for such a scheme.*

*I visited the route to consider the possibilities and the route could be feasible if landowners are in agreement. Local contact with them would be beneficial even at this early stage as I believe this is the key to delivering this type of project.*

*When the work programme allows - possibly in April - an outline cost estimate can be prepared and a submission can be made to the DTTAS for funding for the design stage. The Road Design Office is fully supportive of this initiative and it would be a valuable addition to the leisure and tourist product in Kilrush.*

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin,SEE, Road Design

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***“To ask the Senior Executive Engineer for an update on the proposed works at Limekiln Junction”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

*Reply*

*The design and public consultation are complete and the works, subject to the funding available, will be included in the schedule of Municipal District works 2016.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin**

***“That the Senior Executive Engineer update the Council on the proposed schedule of remedial works to restore the defective road surface & footpath sections in Miltown Malbay at previously identified locations per Notice of Motions (2015)”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

*Reply*

*As per my previous reply it is difficult to give an exact timeframe for completion of the remaining works which primarily involve the Main street as funding for this section of road will be provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland who are the funding authority for*

*works to the national secondary road network. We have included sections of footpath on the R-474 (Ennis Road ) and the Mullagh road in the Draft 2016 schedule of Municipal District Works.*

*Response Ends*

*Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District*

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin**

***“That the Senior Executive Engineer report on the ongoing road closures since Dec 2015 at L1118-64 Rath, Corofin & L62642-0 Creevagh, Mullagh & recurring flooding at R460 Carrowkeel West, Inagh during same time period”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*L-1118-64 Rath, Corofin.*

*The flooding issue that occurs on the L-1118 at Rath Church, Corofin appears to be caused during periods of prolonged intense rainfall which the area has endured both this winter and during the winter of 2009. The road and surrounding land is situated in a natural depression with no outfall pathway for surface water to discharge to. The drainage at this location relies on subterranean swallow holes which appear to be at capacity due to the prolonged rainfall. The water levels are being monitored and have dropped on occasion only to rise again following any significant period of rain.*

*Unfortunately there is no obvious cost effective solution to resolve the problem other than to wait for more favourable weather which will naturally alleviate the issue. When the water levels recede we will inspect the swallow hole to determine if there are any blockages which may account for the slow dissipation rates.*

*L-62642-Creevagh.*

*The L-62642 at Creevagh remains closed due to the severe damage /demolition of the bridge following storm Desmond in early December. We have progressed the design element of the new proposed structure but are currently awaiting a response to our Section 50 application under the Arterial Drainage Act from the Office of Public Works. Once consent is received from the OPW it is our intention to finalise the design and proceed to procurement and construction of a new replacement bridge.*

*R-460 – Carrowkeel*

*The intermittent flooding on the R460 / N85 at Carrowkeel is again a direct result of prolonged intense rainfall. The Inagh river reaches capacity or beyond capacity and floods during prolonged rainfall events which limits or prevents the stream ,feeding from the north at Carrowkeel bridge ,from discharging into the Inagh river. The confluence of both of these river courses causes the northern stream to back up and flood across the N85 and adjoining land.*

*Response Ends*

*Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District*

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin**

***“That the Council install an Electronic Warning Sign at Mac’s Cross, Knockliscrane to enhance the safety features at this much trafficked junction leading to Spanish Point - Miltown Malbay - Mullagh – Quilty”.***

Cllr. Curtin agreed to defer this Motion to the next Meeting

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers**

***“Regarding the link road between Gower South and Gower North Cooraclare a Notice of Motion was passed a number of years ago when Mr. Donal Buckley was the Senior Engineer in Kilrush that this road be taken in charge by Clare Co. Council. This Motion was passed at that time however upon recent investigation I have discovered that this road has not yet been taken over by the Council. I call on the West Clare Municipal District to rectify this and complete the taking in charge of this road with immediate effect.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating and it was agreed that the process of taking in charge the road would be initiated in accordance with the Taking in Charge policy.

*Reply*

*Prior to the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the making of an order declaring a road to be a public road was a reserved function exercised by the full Council not an Electoral Area. I have searched the minutes of the full Council meetings from 1995 to the present day , 21 years , and could find no reference or resolution declaring the above road to be a public road. Therefore in the absence of such a resolution of the Council we are not in a position to declare the road a public road and take it in charge. I have no hesitation in searching the records again if a more precise date could be given of when the resolution may have been passed.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers**

***“That Clare County Council upgrade the signage at the junction of L2078 and the R484 at Kilmihil village”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr.Keating

*Reply*

*I am not aware of any particular issue with respect to signage at this junction. Direction and regulatory signs and road markings all appear to be in place.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly**

***“That immediate essential repairs be carried out on the Drumquin-Islandavanna road”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*The Drumquin-Islandavanna road is not included in the Draft 2016 Municipal District Schedule of Works. We will continue to maintain the road with the resources available.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**

***“That Clare Co. Council outline the roads which were damaged during the recent floods & storms in the West Clare Municipal District & what proportion of funding will be allocated & what roads will be prioritised”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

*The Non National roads which were identified as being damaged by flooding or which would benefit from implementation of defence works in the event of future flood events are detailed in the table hereunder. The total estimated cost submitted to the Dept in respect of the West Clare MD was €972,500.*

*The total equivalent estimated cost submitted for the County was €3.3 million and the allocation confirmed for the county on February 19th was €2.8 million. Therefore, the works proposed as per the attached table will have to be cut back somewhat – when the situation is further assessed, it is likely that the allocation available to the West Clare MD will be between €800,000 and €850,000*

<b>Road Category</b>	<b>Road No</b>	<b>MD</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Estimated Cost (€)</b>
L	61043	West Clare	Caherfeenick North	Roadworks, Drainage - Road strengthening and drainage works, surface badly damaged			50,000
L	6228	West Clare	Cragaknock	Drairage - Pipe stone culvert and remove watermain			8,000
R	484	West Clare	Creegh	Culvert/Bridge - Remove debris from river channel, repair culvert and foundations, rebuild parapet			18,000
L	6113-0	West Clare	Drumellihiy	Roadworks, Drainage, Bridgeworks - Dig out and pipe side drains, raise 100m of road, raise/repair parapets	100m	4m	18,750



L	2510	West Clare	Monvana Road	Bridgeworks - Repairs to bridge arches,			25,000
L	6113-0	West Clare	Drumellihiy	Bridgeworks - Repairs to parapets			7,500
R	483	West Clare	Gower North / Cararow	Roadworks - Raise 400m section of road	400m	5.5m	100,000
L	61642-0	West Clare	Lissanair	Bridgeworks - Raise bridge deck and abutments			55,000
L	8266	West Clare	Ballyvullagan, Ballyea	Culverts, Roadworks - Eliminate / reduce effect of flooding caused by river near school			30,000
L	4188-11	West Clare	Lecarrow More, Kilclogher Bridge	Bridgeworks - Repair abutments			40,000
L	62642	West Clare	Creevagh	Bridge replacement - Complete reconstruction of bridge - total span 10m			80,000
L	8240	West Clare		Drainage & Road Reinstatement - Pipe required to convey water from one point to another across the public road. Concrete backfill required around pipe and AC roadway Permanent Reinstatement required	100m	4.5m of AC Road	32,000
R	476	West Clare		Embankment & Roadworks - Raise road locally by 300mm over approx 100m. To do this embankment needs to be built either side of road	150m	5.7m	50,000
R	476	West Clare		Embankment & Roadworks - Raise road locally by 300mm over approx 150m. To do this embankment needs to be built either side of road	150m	5.7m	50,000
L	2100	West Clare		Drainage & Road Reinstatement - 450 diam pipe required instead of existing small flag culvert			8,000
L	82843-0	West Clare		Retaining wall collapse alongside narrow road - risk of further collapse into adjacent river 6m below road level - traffic presently diverted along opposite margin	30m	3.5m	200,000
R	460	West Clare		Drainage - new piped culvert required across regional road			6,000
L	5208	West Clare		Drainage - new culvert required possibly box / possibly large diameter pipe			7,000

L	51121	West Clare		Drainage - Culvert damaged, repair enquired to ensure stability			5,000
R	477	West Clare		Other - Sea wall gaps to be rebuilt			5,000
R	477	West Clare		Drainage - 900 dia concrete pipe to be piped into main overflow channel to ensure floodwaters flood downstream			7,000
L	1110	West Clare		Roadworks - Road to be paved after being used as diversion route	1,100m	4m	66,240
R	477	West Clare		Drainage - piped culverts x 2 need replacing across road			6,000
R	479	West Clare		Draianage - Provide storm water drainage system to river			20,000
L	21121	West Clare		Roadworks - Road to be paved after being used as diversion route - also drainage works	1,500m	3.5m	90,000
R	482	West Clare		Road reconstruction as a result of heavy diverted traffic over 8 week period	100m	5.5m	30,000
L	1118	West Clare		Repairs to road which is still flooded	150m	5m	10,000
L	4184	West Clare		Now Culvert required across road			8,000

*Response Ends*

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Transportation

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**  
***“That road repairs be carried out on the L6038-0”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

*We will carry out repairs to the L-6038 (Querrin) subject to the resources available.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**  
***“That road repairs be carried out on the L2018”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

*Reply*

*We will carry out repairs to the L-2018 (Lisdeen) subject to the resources available.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle**

***“I am again requesting that Clare Co. Council would strengthen & surface the Woodmount - Moughna road***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*The Woodmount-Moughna road is included in the Draft 2016 Municipal District Schedule of Works.*

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle**

***“That Clare Co. Council would outline their plans to deal with the problems caused by the recent storms at the carpark at Doolin Pier”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

*The clean up of the car parks will commence after the high tides which are scheduled around the 10th of March. Given that more extensive damage occurred in Doolin as a result of the 2014 coastal storms than as a result of recent events, the coastline in the vicinity of the harbour was identified as one which needs strengthening and so, in 2015, the OPW confirmed it's approval to the Council to appoint consultants to carry out a Feasibility Study in this context. Clare County Council has appointed a Consultant JBA Consulting/Cronin Miller Consulting Engineers to carry out a coastal flooding and erosion risk management study for Doolin with particular focus on the protection of the car parks, Piers and Beach area. The study is carried out in line with the scope and terms of reference for such studies published by the Office of Public Works. The feasibility study will examine all the existing information available, gather the additional information required, produce flood and erosion maps, propose mitigation measures and carry out an estimate of benefit and costs. The study will inform future coastal protection works at Doolin including works associated with the master plan. The study will be completed in May and will be submitted to the OPW for funding to advance to detailed design, planning and construction stages.*

*Response Ends*

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, Transportation

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle**

***“That Clare Co. Council would give a timeframe on when the Masterplan for Doolin will be completed by the consultants”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

*The consultants have just been appointed but there hasn't been a kick-off meeting yet. I expect that such a meeting will take place over the next few weeks – this will among other things facilitate outline agreement in relation to a target programme. I think that it would be reasonable to expect that a draft masterplan should be emerging in approximately 6 months from now.*

*Response Ends*

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Transportation

Cllr. Nagle indicated that an area of waste ground opposite O' Connors Pub was being offered to Clare Co Council to facilitate two or three Bus bays which would greatly ease traffic congestion in Fisher St. C. Feeney indicated that there were two problems with this site 1) that it had a steep gradient and it would be necessary to build a retaining wall 2) Japanese knotweed was present on the site which would be very expensive in treating. Cllr. Nagle requested that the availability of parking for busses in Fisher St needed to be looked at in advance of the upcoming tourist season.

## **28. A.O.B.**

A Haugh updated the members that S. McNulty, SEE would be assigned to the Ennistymon MD offices with effect from 1st June 2016. She also added that C. Colette had been upgraded to an SSO & would spend half her working week working from the Ennistymon MD offices.

J. Corry updated the members that works would be commencing on Phase 2 of Kilrush Sports Complex later that week.

It was proposed that the next MD meeting would take place in Kilmihil on 6th May at 11am to accommodate the 4 TDs who it was agreed would be invited to attend.

Cllr. Lynch proposed that the next three MD meetings of the West Clare MD (May, July & Sept) would take place at 11am. This was unanimously agreed.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed :**

**Cllr. C. Curtin**  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Signed :**

**J. Corry**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Dated this the 3rd day of May 2016.**