

# **Minutes of July Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2019 at 4 p.m. in West Clare MD Offices, Ennistymon**

## **Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

Cllr. B. Chambers,

## **I Láthair:**

Cllr. P.J.Kelly, Cllr. S. Talty, Cllr. R. Garvey, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. J. Killeen, Cllr. J. Garrihy, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. C. Murphy

## **Officials present:**

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service  
Mr. J. O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District  
Mr. M. Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District  
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

Cllr. Chambers convened the meeting & welcomed those in attendance.

## **1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 10th May 2019**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating & seconded by Cllr. Lynch & agreed.

Cllr. Lynch sought an update on a proposed meeting of the Management Committee of Active Kilrush Sports Complex. J. Corry indicated that he was arranging same.

Cllr. Lynch also referred to the importance of having the National flag flying from District Office buildings.

## **2. Minutes of AGM of West Clare Municipal District held on 12th June 2019**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Lynch & seconded by Cllr. Talty & agreed.

Cllr Chambers indicated that there was no vote at the 2019 Budget meeting of Clare Co Council on a decision to reduce GMA allocations by €300k so he could not have participated in such a vote.

Cllr. Kelly argued that by voting to adopt the Budget that contained a provision to reduce the GMA allocation by €300k that the Cathaoirleach had participated in such a decision.

## **3. Draft Standing Orders**

The Draft Standing Orders were proposed by Cllr. Garrihy & seconded by Cllr. Lynch & agreed.

## **Planning and Economic Development**

## **4. Section 183 Disposal of Property at Main Street, Kildysart, Co. Clare.**

The disposal was proposed by Cllr. Lynch & seconded by Cllr. Murphy & agreed.

## **5. Section 183 Disposal of Property at Laghtagoona, Corofin, Co. Clare.**

The disposal was proposed by Cllr. Garrihy & seconded by Cllr. Lynch & agreed

Cllr. Lynch enquired if elected members could receive notification of offers of LA housing now that GDPR had become law. It was agreed that an enquiry would be made with the Councils solicitor.

## **6. Taking in Charge – Declaration of Roads in the following estate to be Public Roads in accordance with S11 of the Roads Act 1993**

- Craglands/Crag Ard, Drumquin ,Teermaclane

The taking in charge of the roads in this estate was proposed by Cllr Kelly & seconded by Cllr. Lynch & agreed.

## **7. Taking in Charge – Declaration of Roads in the following estate to be Public Roads in accordance with S11 of the Roads Act 1993**

- Cuirt Merrimam, Ennistymon

The taking in charge of the roads in this estate was proposed by Cllr Talty & seconded by Cllr. Lynch & agreed.

## **8. Taking in Charge – Declaration of Roads in the following estate to be Public Roads in accordance with S11 of the Roads Act 1993**

- The Brooks, Kilkee

The taking in charge of the roads in this estate was proposed by Cllr Lynch & seconded by Cllr. Murphy & agreed.

## **9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly “ That the Council develop a slipway at Cahercon Pier”**

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*The **Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary and the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023** designates the area and lands around Cahercon pier for Marine Related Development, due in part, to the existing infrastructure of Cahercon Pier and the deep waters surrounding the pier.*

*More recently, through part funding from Enterprise Ireland, Clare County Council is seeking the development of a Maritime Center of Excellence at Cahercon House. The first phase of the project is proposed to provide a specialist commercial training facility providing mandatory maritime training courses and value-added training for non-seafaring personnel taking up positions at sea.*

*The linkages and complementarity between the potential maritime opportunities at Cahercon House and the existing pier infrastructure are obvious. Should the requirement for the further development of a slipway at Cahercon Pier be identified, then subject to funding and environmental requirements, such a slipway*

development would be favourably considered, complementing the vision to create a maritime centre of excellence

*Response Ends*

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development

## **Social Development**

### **Rural Development**

#### **10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**

***“Following the successful application to the Rural Regeneration Development Fund which secured €868,500 , on February 15th 2019, for the Loophead lighthouse tourism project I am requesting an update report from the relevant Directorate.***

***The report should cover the following points;***

***A breakdown of the grant aid allocated into the main categories of spend envisaged in the press announcement and details of the work involved?***

***(i) “refurbish and expand the facilities at the historic Loop Head visitor lighthouse attraction “***

***(ii) “enhancing the capacity and attractiveness of the lighthouse”***

***(iii) “assist in the enhancement of the existing tourism offering in the area, delivering benefits to the wider community through increased activity”.***

***(iv) Have the Council allocated the required matching funds***

***(v) Can the report also include a programme of when this vitally needed work will be carried out.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly

*Reply*

*The Loop Head lighthouse first opened its doors to visitors in 2011 and over the years a small exhibition space, improved car parking and toilets have been developed. The project is now at a stage where further investment is required in order to ensure that the lighthouse continues to contribute to the sustainable economic and social development of the area.*

*The main categories of spend will be as follows:*

<b>Description</b>	<b>€</b>
Restoration/Refurbishment	652,000
Water and Wastewater	210,000
Fit out	186,000
Design	110,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,158,000</b>

*The proposed enhancements to the existing product which were the subject of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund application include:*

- 1. The extension of the public group water scheme to the site*
- 2. The upgrade of wastewater treatment infrastructure at the site*
- 3. The provision of a small visitor centre*
- 4. The provision of an accommodation offering at the site*

*Match funding for this project will be provided through loan finance. It is envisaged that a design team will be appointed by August 2019 with works due to commence on site by year end.*

*Response Ends*

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

Cllr. Keating indicated that he was disappointed that waiting until August 2019 for a design team to be appointed.

#### **11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***“That the Clare Co Council carry out a disability audit for Kilrush in consultation with disability groups to develop a programme of works to make Kilrush a disability friendly town”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*With regard to this request the Council's Access Officer will be consulted in order to determine how best to approach the audit process. It should be noted that walkability audits were carried out in eight Irish towns and urban centres in 2014 by Age Friendly Ireland in association with the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design. The purpose of the audit process was to develop an audit tool for Irish roads and streets.*

*'Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach' provides best practice guidance on how to design, build and manage buildings and spaces for use by everyone regardless of age, size, ability or disability.*

*Response Ends*

John O'Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Lynch suggested that Kilrush should be an ability friendly town.

M. Lahiffe explained that Clare Co Council designed infrastructure to universal access standards.

#### **Physical Development**

#### **12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers**

***“That Clare County Council provide public lighting on the L2094 from the junction with the N67.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty

*Reply*

*There currently are 3 public lights at the junction of the N67 and the L2094. These 3 lights will be changed to LED as part of the RMO upgrade national project.*

*Response Ends*

Pat Lynch, Executive Engineer, Transportation

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

***“That Clare County Council provide traffic calming measures at Monmore church on the L2034.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy

*Reply*

*The Road Design Office can consider this as a Low Cost Safety Application for 2020. We will research accident data as the DTTAS prioritise locations with higher accident numbers particularly if there is a pattern of accidents which can be addressed.*

*Some measures to consider at junctions are tightening up of junction radii, warning signage on grey backgrounds, new lining, junction definition posts and anti skid surfacing.*

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

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

***“That Clare County Council would provide an update on proposals to resurface the N67 between Moyasta and Lisdeen church. This is a busy tourist route on the Wild Atlantic Way and is the last section between Kilrush and Kilkee in major need of resurfacing.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy

*Reply*

*Clare County Council will shortly be going to tender to resurface a 3.5km section of the N67 between Moyasta School and Lisdeen Church. It is envisaged works will take place after the busy summer period for tourist related traffic.*

*Response Ends*

John O’ Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

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

***That Clare County Council would provide an update on proposals to resurface the R484 from***

- (i) north of Knockalough Junction where the first kilometer of this route was resurfaced a few years ago but the remaining section to Kilmihil at Lacken is in bad need of resurfacing.***
- (ii) a section north of Kilmihil at Shyan is also in need in resurfacing.***

***This regional road is an important route servicing Kilmihil ,Cree , Doonbeg and the Cooraclare area.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

*I wish to reply as follows:*

*(i) A 1.9km section of the R484 between Knockalough and Lacken has been included as a proposal for works in 2021 on the current multi-year road works programme.*

*(ii) An 800m section of the R484 from Shyan towards Leitrim, Kilmihil will be resurfaced later this year as part of the 2019 road works programme.*

*Response Ends*

John O'Malley , A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Keating indicated that he would be concerned that the section mentioned in part (i) would not be done until 2021.

It was agreed to take Items 16 and 24 together.

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch and Cllr. Murphy**

***“The West Clare Municipal District request Clare Co Council to seek approval from TII to amend speed limit bylaws on the :***

- ***N67 and N68 at the entrance to and exit from Kilrush and Kilkee***
- ***Locations to be agreed on the N68 Kilrush/ Ennis Road***

***The West Clare Municipal District request a copy of the assessment on the N68 completed by the TII as part of the speed limit review, detailing on a kilometer by kilometer basis the decision making process that led to the current speed limits”***

*Reply*

*The speed limit review process commenced in 2015 and the formal review process, including public consultation, was fully implemented in 2016 before the speed limits were adopted by Clare Co Council in October 2018. The implementation date was agreed for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019.*

*We will refer the motion to the TII for their response.*

*Response Ends*

John Corry, AO, Transportation and Meetings Administrator, West Clare MD

Cllr. Lynch indicated that there was a perception that West Clare had been pushed further away from the main urban centers as a result of the revised speed limits which would result in your journey time from Ennis to Kilrush taking longer. He said that the purpose of the Motion was to draw the attention of the TII to the matters raised. He emphasized that there needed to be greater investment from the TII on this road. He mentioned that he had a significant concern from a safety point of view that the 60km/h speed limit had been moved closer in to the town centre in Kilrush near Tesco.

Cllr. Murphy indicated his concern at the extension of the 60km/h speed limit being extended into Kilrush as outlined by Cllr. Lynch and also at the extension of the 60km/h speed limit into Kilkee such that it included a petrol station and the GAA field.

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

***“ That revised speed limits on the N68 would be a justification for early investment to improve the areas of this road that are substandard”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*Clare Co Council received a grant allocation of €2,515,000 for National Secondary Pavement Improvement as part of our initial grant allocation from the TII for 2019. This represented a significant increase from the €1,200,000 allocated for 2018. Clare Co Council engage with the TII on a continued basis to seek grant funding to improve our national secondary road network.*

*Response Ends*

John Corry, AO, Transportation and Meetings Administrator, West Clare MD

Cllr. Kelly argued that the road was not up to the necessary standard in certain sections if TII needed to reduce the speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h and he suggested that the TII needed to further invest in this road.

Cllr. Keating suggested that a two plus one option be explored for sections of this road but it was agreed that this option was not practical.

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

***“That a floating pontoon be installed at Cappa pier to segregate boat and bathing and increase boating accessibility during low water”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*Grants are available from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme for improvement works to be carried out to piers and harbours. Clare County Council will examine the feasibility of providing such a facility and if appropriate applying for grant funding.*

*Response Ends*

John Corry, AO, Transportation and Meetings Administrator, West Clare MD

Cllr. Lynch indicated that tourism in Cappa was vital to the town of Kilrush. He suggested that the possibility of providing a floating pontoon at Cappa be explored as part of the Cappa Enhancement Strategy.

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

***“The West Clare Municipal District request Clare County Council Roads department to undertake an assessment of what range of Low Cost Safety measures are available and could be delivered at Monmore Cross on the L2034 to reduce traffic speeds through this junction. What are the implementation costs and timeframes for delivery in the interests of preventing an accident at this location.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

*The Road Design Office can consider this as a Low Cost Safety Application for 2020. We will research accident data as the DTTAS prioritise locations with higher accident numbers particularly if there is a pattern of accidents which can be addressed.*

*Some measures to consider at junctions are tightening up of junction radii, warning signage on grey backgrounds, new lining, junction definition posts and anti skid surfacing.*

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

Cllr. Murphy suggested that it was only a matter of time before an accident occurred at this location and that measures to improve the safety of this location needed to be looked in to as a matter of urgency. He made reference to traffic calming measures which he had seen in Portugal which were very effective where there were traffic light signals linked to speed.

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

***“When do Clare County Council expect to have allocated the budget to remove the asbestos at the Kilkee reservoir and what is the proposed timeframe for the beginning and completion of those works”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

*I wish to respond as follows:*

*I wish to confirm to the Members that we are and have been engaging with the EPA and the HSA in respect of the Kilkee Reservoir site and indeed the other West Clare sites where an asbestos issue has been identified. The preliminary works deemed necessary to secure and make safe the sites have been carried out to the satisfaction of the EPA and these are being routinely monitored. On the advice of the EPA, further sampling works are now required to ensure that we have the full detail in respect of the location and extent of any areas that may be contaminated and need to be remediated. We have tendered for this work and the Contract will be awarded in the coming weeks.*

*Following completion of same, we will be better informed as to what final remediation works will be required and the likely cost and timeframe for same. This will be agreed with the EPA and we will be in a position at that stage to inform the Members and any local Landowners that may be affected.*

*Response Ends*

Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, PMO



Cllr. Murphy suggested that this matter had been ongoing since 2013 and needed to be resolved as soon as possible such that the reservoir could be available as a recreational amenity for the town. It was agreed that S. Lenihan be requested to meet with the members and brief them on the potential for progressing the matter.

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

***“In the interest of safety for road users & residents I ask Clare Co Council to introduce traffic calming measures such as signage and/or speed ramps at the following locations: Kilcornan, Ardnaculla, Bogberry, Ballingaddy & Deerpark West Ennistymon. Garrihys Cross Station Rd Lahinch.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Garvey

*Reply*

*Clare County Council will gather speed data in these locations to assess to what extent speeding is an issue in these estates and on these roads. We can then make decisions on the best way forward to deal with road safety within these estates. An Garda Síochána have also a role to play in ensuring that Speed Limits are being adhered to.*

*Clare County Council will also look to install signage along the L1084 in the vicinity of New Line Cuirt Merriman in the interests of Road Safety.*

*New Speed Ramps have recently been installed on Station Road Lahinch.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE , West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Talty indicated that he would like to see progress on this matter as soon as possible.

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

***“That Clare County Council examine the feasibility of improving the general road surface in Corofin Village and improving pedestrian access to the centre of the village”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty

*Reply*

*The R476 is currently not on the 3 year roads programme. That said, we will review the priorities towards the beginning of 2020 to assess if Corofin Village can be included in 2020 or 2021. We also require confirmation that Irish Water have no immediate plans to upgrade the Watermains in the town.*

*Clare County Council will engage with the local community to establish if any alternative access point to the town is viable.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE , West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Killeen welcomed any progress on the matters raised. He emphasized that the road surface through the village needed to be improved. He also added that pedestrian access to the town centre was hazardous and needed to be improved. M. Lahiffe indicated that he would look into options.

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

***“That Clare County Council investigate the traffic management including flashing speed indication lights in Corofin Village”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty

*Reply*

*Clare County Council will seek funding (through CLAR) for Driver Feedback signs to be erected on the entry points to Corofin. These act as reminders for motorists that they have entered a 50kph.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE , West Clare Municipal District

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

***“That TII would investigate improving the exit from the L2138 (Cranny rd) to the N68 in the interest of public safety”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

*I have discussed this junction with TII Engineers and visited the site with them. Improvement of visibility to the right as one exits the junction could possibly be improved but it would involve realignment of either the side road L2138 or the N68. The Road Design Office will commence design of the scheme when resources allow and forward a Feasibility Report to TII. It is likely that full funding will be granted by TII.*

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE , Road Design

**25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Garvey, Cllr. Talty, Cllr. Killeen & Cllr Garrihy**

***“ We the 4 North Clare councillors request:***

***that a presentation on Greenways is organised by the Director of Services of Rural and Community Development and the Director of Physical Development for all sitting councillors in the West Clare MD . We propose that as part of this presentation that there would be contributions from the following, who would have an in depth knowledge and understanding of Greenways :***

- 1. an expert on best practise of the infrastructure used for Greenways based on lessons learned in Ireland and abroad e.g. Damien Ó Tuama "national cycle infrastructure best practise expert"***
- 2. an engineer from one of the engineering companies that have successfully liaised with landowners in developing Greenways.***
- 3. Tom Fennell, a local farmer whose lands were used for the Waterford Greenway who was completely against the Greenway initially and now is an advocate of same.***

***This presentation is being proposed to begin the process of getting the best Greenway in Ireland for North and West Clare at a time where the West Clare Municipal District faces job losses due to Moneypoint's proposed closure and the need for the regeneration of struggling towns like Miltown Malbay and Corofin"***

Reply

*I wish to respond as follows:*

*By way of background, a lot of good work has already being carried out by Council staff in this regard. The delivery of a world class Greenway is a key priority for the Council and is referenced in the County Development Plan 2017-2023. Funding will be sought from all suitable sources to advance the design and delivery of the overall proposal totalling approx 85km. It is hoped that we may be able to deliver a smaller (23km) section between Kilrush and Kilkee as a pilot phase and we will keep the Members updated on progress in this regard. The delivery of any such Greenway has to be in co-operation and collaboration with affected landowners and local interest groups and in accordance with the National Strategy for Greenways as published by the Department last July. Some preliminary engagement has taken place already and at the appropriate time, we will consult widely with landowners and their representative groupings.*

*In the meantime, we are happy to receive any inputs or suggestions of relevance from interested parties and in response to the particulars of the motion, yes, we will arrange for a presentation to the West Clare Members on this matter and will arrange to have suitable expertise and experience available to assist and inform on the day.*

*Response Ends*

Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, PMO

Cllr. Garvey emphasized the importance of the Greenway to the local economy in Waterford and suggested that the approach outlined in the Motion be progressed. A discussion ensued and L. Cleary indicated that he would arrange for a detailed briefing to be made on the matter for the members prior to their September meeting. He added that there would be future opportunities to seek RRDF funding for the project.

## **26. AOB**

Cllr. Killeen welcomed the additional shuttle bus routes to the Cliffs of Moher. L. Cleary acknowledged the positive feedback but he emphasized that it would be essential that local communities and businesses etc get behind and support the initiative to ensure its viability of being extended into year 2.

Cllr. Garvey acknowledged the work which had been done by Clare Co Council in preparing for the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open in Lahinch. This was echoed by other Cllrs.

There was no further business

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed :**

**Cllr. B Chambers**

**Cathaoirleach**

**Signed :**

**J. Corry**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Dated this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2019.**