

**Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting
held 4pm Tuesday 3rd May 2022 in Council Chamber and online**

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr Cillian Murphy

I Lathair:

Cllr Gabriel Keating, Cllr Joe Killeen, Cllr Joe Garrihy, Cllr Liam Grant,
Cllr Ian Lynch, Cllr PJ Kelly, Cllr Bill Chambers, Cllr Shane Talty (online)

Officials present:

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Coordinator & Director of Service
Mr. John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer & Meetings Administrator, WCMD
Mr. Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer (Ennistymon), WCMD
Ms. Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer,
Mr. Steve Lahiffe, Senior Staff Officer, WCMD

Cllr Murphy convened the Meeting.

1. Minutes of the March Meeting held on 1st March 2022.
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Lynch.
2. Section 183 Proposed Disposal of property at Ardnaculla North, Woodmount, Ennistymon, Co. Clare – Carmel Greene, SEO, Economic Development.
Proposed by Cllr. Garrihy and seconded by Council Chambers.

Rural Development, Planning & Economic Development, Social

3. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

That an Eircode for the location of the nearest defib unit is put on all the ring buoy boxes in the West Clare MD.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Grant.

Reply from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Environment & Water:

Clare County Council do not have information on the location of defibrillator units in the West Clare MD. The units, many of which were installed by parish /community groups / GAA clubs etc, may not always be readily accessible outside of certain hours or perhaps maintenance of the unit may not be up to date in some instances. However where such groups who have provided defibrillator units have registered with the emergency services (HSE – National Ambulance Service) then that information regarding the nearest unit and code number to unlock it can be imparted by the 999 service when they are contacted. Therefore we would encourage all voluntary and community groups to register their units and maintain them so that the relevant emergency service can provide the best co-ordinated response to any incident. The information currently displayed on ring buoy boxes informs people to contact the emergency services by dialling 999 or 112.

Cllr. Murphy while understanding the response felt that it was something that needed to be looked into further. It is something worth doing.

Cllr. Lynch suggested and was supported by Cllr. Grant that funding be given to the local communities to put up the details.

4. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

We call on Clare County Council to progress a walking route from Ruan Village via Port Cross to Dromore Wood.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD:

Clare County Council will be carrying out restoration improvement works to the L-8232 in 2022 which would form part of this proposed walking route. The works will provide a new surface for walkers going to/from Dromore Woods. The West Clare MD office will work with Cllr. Killeen to determine if any other viable works could proceed to help provide a walking route from Ruan to Dromore Wood.

5. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

I request that the WCMD and CCC Property Acquisitions department investigate the feasibility of establishing a vehicle and/or pedestrian access to Place De Plouzane via Henry St. Making the car park more accessible and open would reinvigorate the development attracting more retail opportunities.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD:

The West Clare MD are in favour of linking Place de Plouzané with Henry Street and agrees with the councillor that such a linkage would likely lead to regeneration opportunities in both Place de Plouzané and Henry Street.

Initial discussions have taken place with our property management section and Social Directorate to consider possible options and look at the potential for the various departments in progressing this proposal. I will keep the members informed of progress and contact will be made with property owners in relation to this.

6. NOTICE OF MOTION FROM Cllr. IAN LYNCH:

In light of the proposed offshore wind energy projects and its potential economic benefits to Clare communities. I request that the WCMD invite developers, such as Simplify Blue Group, to give a presentation to the members on the anticipated infrastructural requirements, with a specific focus on harbour developments, that may be required to maximise the potential of projects for West Clare Communities. The presentation will inform CCC of anticipated needs and required works to ensure proactive and strategic approach to future funding applications.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD:

The West Clare MD will write to potential developers in this sector who have an interest in future offshore wind energy projects off the West Clare coast with a view to determining required infrastructural developments and to coordinate future funding applications as suggested. An invite will also be issued to developers who wish to present to the MD members.

7. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

In light of the new Circular Economy Bill addressing substantial GDPR issues in relation to CCTV I request that the Minister for Justice, through An Garda Síochána, take in charge, control, operation,

and maintenance of the CCTV infrastructure within Kilrush Town to be utilized to for crime prevention and detection, safeguarding and protecting the public.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/SEO, West Clare MD:

The West Clare MD are working with An Garda Síochána in relation to CCTV in Kilrush. This is progressing in line with the developing new National legislation.

Cllr. Lynch advised that there was a grant of €40,000 from the Department of Justice available in 2014 which could not be used at the time due to the rules in place but could be used now.

8. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Liam Grant:

I call on the West Clare MD to give progress report on what work has been done to date to facilitate the changing of road signs to their preferred spelling. I raised a motion on this topic last November and I would like to know what has been to organise a plebiscite and what information has been gathered from TII.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

Reply from Ann Reynolds, SEO, Corporate Services:

A cross directorate team has been established to examine this request and identify the scope of the project. The cross-directorate inputs are as follows:

- General Design - final mapping of the electoral areas/divisions to define the boundaries and settlement areas.
- Roads Department: Consultations with TII and review and costings of signage replacement
- Corporate Services: Compile the list of qualified electors and arrange plebiscite.

The General Design office has commenced work on the mapping and identification of the boundary settlements and on an inventory of the relevant signage.

9. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Liam Grant:

I call on the West Clare MD to evaluate whether areas of the MD should be classed as rent pressure zones. What data is presented to the residential tenancies board and is it a true reflection of the rent and rent increases being paid on the ground. Given the rental increases and availability in the likes of Lahinch, Ennistymon and Kilkee I'm surprised there are technically no rent pressure zones in the area.

Reply from Siobhán McNulty, SEO, Housing Department:

The setting of rent pressure zones is a Ministerial function as set out in Section 24A of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, as amended. Under the Act an 'area' is defined as the local authority administrative area (the whole County) or the local electoral area (West Clare MD).

There is no provision under the act for any other type of area to be designated as a Rent Pressure Zone, therefore individual towns as listed above cannot be designated as rent pressure zones.

The RTB Rent Index quarterly report shows the annual rate of increase in the average amount of rent for the area, this data is collated by the RTB. There are currently 55 rent pressure zones in the Country and Housing Agency continue to monitor the rental market and may recommend further areas for designation in the future.

Discussion was had highlighting the supply issues. It was pointed out that there are circa three hundred AirBnBs in Clare and in the middle of a housing crisis this needs to be looked at.

Physical Development

10. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

Can I be provided with a detailed update as to the condition of the Strand Line wall in Kilkee, the details of what works are required, including approximate costings and timelines, what specific requests have been made to the OPW with regards to it and when these were made.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, PMO:

Members will be aware of our concern for the stability of certain sections of the Strand line seawall in Kilkee which appear to have suffered some undermining and pressure from the roadside in recent years. To ascertain the extent of any damage, the Council recently commissioned Punch Consulting Engineers to carry out a structural assessment of the wall.

The findings of their report are that certain sections of the wall are quite vulnerable and need timely intervention to prevent a possible collapse while other sections need to be strengthened to prevent further deterioration. The Report advises of the need for site investigation to be carried out on both road and seaside of the wall and that specialist geotechnical advice be obtained to fully understand the wall behaviour. The report concludes that remedial works are required to sections of the wall which have been undermined and subsided somewhat at Strand Line and Marine Parade. The type of work necessary will be subject to detailed design but will most likely be of a similar nature to the base terraces constructed along the wall in 2015/2016. The estimated costs will be more than €1.2m but of course, are subject to detail design and whether repairs rather than reconstruction will suffice to restore stability and avoid a possible collapse and need for reconstruction.

The Report has been forwarded to the Office of Public Works (OPW) for their consideration and the Council has applied to the OPW for funding to appoint a consultant to design an intervention at the earliest juncture and to take the design through to planning stage. The outcome of this application will dictate the timeline for the project but if favourable, the planning stage will commence immediately and will take approximately four months while the detailed design and tender stage will take a further five months assuming a favourable planning decision.

The Council is fully committed to finding a timely resolution to the matter and related to same have already carried out some geotechnical ground investigation works there as part of the Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme. The Lab results of same are awaited and the situation on the ground will be routinely monitored in the interim.

We will keep the Members informed of developments in this regard.

Cllr. Murphy wished to see the report, would like to know what type of movement was happening and was there an interim solution until the OPW acts.

John O'Malley advised that an interim solution is being put in place.

Councillors asked that an invitation would be sent to Minister Patrick O'Donovan to see the works needed.

11. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

Can I be provided with a detailed update with regards to the coastal protection measures required along the coast between Quilty village and Seafield pier to protect both public and private properties, the history of any such identified works and of any previous funding allocations in which protection works for this section of coast was included in the past.

The notice of motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, PMO:

The Members will be aware that following the devastation caused by the storms and floods of 2014 and 2015, significant funding was made available to Clare County Council from a number of Government Departments to repair the damage caused. As part of our submission to Government, we had identified other areas of vulnerable coastline that needed infrastructural investment to protect both public and private property, including areas in Quilty, but unfortunately funding for same was not allocated as the focus was on repairing damage to EXISTING infrastructure rather than the provision of NEW infrastructure. The Office of Public Works did, however, provide funding to carry out Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Studies along the Clare Coast which would inform and assist future funding applications. One such Study in Clare, the *Mal Bay Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Study* area specifically looked at the area from Quilty Village to Seafield as well as Spanish Point and the White Strand area in Miltown Malbay. Consultants Byrne Looby were engaged by Clare County Council and as required, they examined all options from an economic, environmental, and technical perspective. They produced a detailed report and identified preferred options for the three sites. The proposal for Quilty was to provide a rock revetment along the coastline to reduce wave energy and protect the coastline with an estimated cost at the time of €4.4 million.

The OPW were not satisfied that the Quilty proposal achieved the required Cost Benefit ratio and requested further study on sediment transportation and additional information regarding the recreational benefits and visitor numbers in the area. The Council has submitted same for their consideration and await their final observations and recommendations. Given the low Benefit to Cost ratio, it is unlikely that a major scheme will be funded, and the most likely outcome is that the OPW will approve a minor works scheme targeted at the most vulnerable dwelling houses along the Coast. This will again depend on meeting the technical, environmental, and economic criteria required for a scheme to be approved and funding to be allocated but the Council is committed to finding a resolution to the fears and concerns of the affected members of the local Community and will continue to seek funding from Government to provide much needed protection to the properties at risk in Quilty.

We will keep the Members informed of developments in this regard.

It was asked by the members as to when the submission was made.

12. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

The Council resurface the road into the housing scheme at Crovraghan, Kiladysart.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:

Crovraghan, Kiladysart is typical of many housing developments in West Clare. Developments are perhaps 50 years or more old and the road surface is relatively poor in places. Road reconstruction is required to restore the road surface to its original condition, and this can only be done using a bituminous pavement overlay (*Surface dressing isn't an option in housing developments due to loose chippings*). Overlays are expensive and the West Clare MD does not have the funds in its annual roadworks programme to carry out pavement overlays in these - and many other – housing developments.

Should funding become available the West Clare MD will carry out the necessary works at Crovraghan (*& indeed other housing developments in our charge*).

13. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

Request Irish Water to ensure that pure water is delivered to the Cree/Cooraclare area.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Irish Water:

Irish Water are aware of the repeated bursts in this area of West Clare and so far in April there has been outages on three separate dates in the Cree and Cooraclare areas. In each case, these outages can lead to temporary discoloration caused by disturbance of the pipelines and subsequent flushing of the mains. In all cases, water being supplied is fully compliant with a programme of sampling and analysis across the distribution network.

A 1.6km section of 7" main south of Cooraclare, between Tullabrack and Cooraclare is proceeding to design stage. It is noted that bursts on this line cause outages in Cooraclare and beyond.

We are also assessing a 700m section of 8" main near Alva between Cree and Cooraclare which has a history of recent bursts. All works remain subject to funding approval to go to construction.

It was asked that in future that a name should be supplied rather than "reply from Irish water".

14. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

The Council consider the speed limit in Coolmeen.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation:

A National Speed Limit Review is initiated every 5 years by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The last Speed Limit Review in Clare was completed in 2018.

The speed limit in Coolmeen can be reviewed under the next National Speed Limit Review.

Cllr. Garrihy asked that there would be an interim speed limit review.

15. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

I on Clare County Council to consider the feasibility of the provision of Driver Feedback Signs on the approach roads to both Ruan and Corofin Villages in the interest of traffic management and Health and Safety.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD:

The West Clare MD office will work with Cllr. Killeen to source funding to install Driver Feedback Signs at these locations.

John O'Malley advised that an alternate company to maintain the current signs and provide new signs is now being appointed.

16. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

While congratulating West Clare Municipal District on the installation of Traffic Calming measures adjacent to Boston Primary School I call on the Roads Department to examine the safety situation \traffic management issues at Tubber National School and supplement the measures in place.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD:

The West Clare MD office will arrange to meet with Tubber National School to discuss these issues and find suitable solutions.

17. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:

Request that public lighting be extended along Holland Drive Liscannor. From rear corner of Church up to the national school. Existing Electricity supply poles are already in place.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD:

The addition of public lighting to this section of road will be requested by the West Clare MD office.

18. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:

Ask that dished kerbing or ramps be installed along footpaths serving the front row of houses in Clare County Council housing estate, Station Road, Lahinch. These houses are designated for older people & currently among the residents, there is a wheelchair user & a mobility aid user.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD:

Dropped kerbs will be required to a number of entrances at this location. These works will be added to the schedule of works for 2022 and will be completed later this year subject to funding being available for footpath works.

19. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:

In the absence of any action from Irish Water. Ask Clare County Council to conduct a feasibility study on linking a wastewater system in Doolin to the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant in Lisdoonvarna. This study was promised to Doolin Tourism when the Lisdoonvarna scheme was installed over 20 years ago.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Environment & Water:

Clare County Council are no longer the Water Services Authority or indeed have the legislative basis for the provision of water services infrastructure which would include the preparation of such feasibility studies or Preliminary reports. Irish Water are the relevant Water Services Authority for the provision of such infrastructure. If the Members agree we can forward this request to Irish Water for their consideration.

The members expressed their frustration with the response. Cllr. Talty expressed the view that it was too important to cede to Irish Water.

Leonard Cleary acknowledged the member's frustration and agreed to the MD office will undertake to get a cost with the Water Service's office.

20. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

That Clare County Council provide surface dressing on the R487 at the entrance to Cross Village.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:

This particular stretch of the R-487 is not included in the recently adopted Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2022. However, 1,500 metres of the R-487 near Kilbaha will benefit from a surface overlay and 1,850 metres of the R-487 near Doonaghboy will be surface dressed as part of this year's Roadworks Programme.

21. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

That remedial works be carried out on the L6068 (Glascloon) as a matter of urgency and also the L-6038-0 (Querrin), which are in a bad state of repair.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:

The L-6068-0 is not on the recently adopted Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2022. I will request that the velocity patcher visit the area and carry out remedial works as necessary.

The L-6038-0 is near Querrin but is not on the recently adopted Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2022. I will request that the velocity patcher visit the area and carry out remedial works as necessary.

22. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

That Clare County Council would give a progress report on the upgrading of footpaths and drainage works in Mullagh Village.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD

Following a visit to Mullagh village, some works have been agreed. These are relatively minor in nature and have not commenced yet. They will be completed in conjunction with our 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works programme.

23. Any other business.

- Cllr. Lynch asked for an update as to where we are at in relation to CRM for WCMD Notice of Motions.
- Asked that Irish Water would present to the MD in relation to the Treatment Plant in Kilrush.
- It was also requested that meetings would continue to be available in a hybrid format i.e. in person and online.
- Members were reminded that the AGM was scheduled to take place at 4pm

Signed: _____



**Cllr. Shane Talty,
Cathaoirleach**

Signed: _____



**John O'Malley
Meetings Administrator**

Dated this 6th July 2022

