

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday , 24th September 2014 at 3:30pm at the Offices of the Municipal District at the Civic Offices, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare.

Present: Councillors Cathal Crowe (Cathaoirleach), Pat McMahon, PJ Ryan, Gerard Flynn, Mike McKee & John Crowe

Mr Niall Barrett, Area Co Ordinator, Mr Liam Browne Executive Engineer, , Seamus Halpin, Meetings Administrator, Shannon Municipal District & Pádraig Malone, Staff Officer.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 15th July 2014

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15th July 2014 were proposed by Cllr McKee, seconded by Cllr Flynn and agreed. There were no matters arising.

2. The prescribed period for holding a meeting of the Municipal District to consider the draft budgetary plan of the Shannon Municipal District.

Niall Barrett briefly outlined some of the issues arising from the above and it was proposed by Cllr John Crowe, seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and agreed by all to hold the meeting in the Shannon Municipal District offices on the 8th October at 9:30am.

3. Declaration of a Public Road – Rineanna South, Shannon, Co. Clare

The above item was proposed by Cllr Flynn, seconded by Cllr Ryan and agreed.

4. Disposal of Property attached to Carrigoran House Nursing Home

The above item was proposed by Cllr Flynn, seconded by Cllr McKee and agreed.

5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr J Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this municipal authority consider placing rumble strips or similar to calm traffic approaching Cratloe National School as the present measures are ineffective.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

As traffic passing over rumble strips generates a lot of noise they are not suitable in a residential area such as this. There are flashing warning signs and extensive road markings in this area already and the most appropriate way to deal with motorists disregarding these warnings is by enforcement. The Council will make arrangements to provide some additional road markings on each approach to the school in advance of the existing markings in order to provide earlier warning to motorists.

Cllr Ryan stated that enforcement had not worked in the past and felt the reply was unsatisfactory. Cllr J Crowe remarked that a lot of measures to alleviate the issue have been tried before but do not appear to have solved the issue fully. Cllr Ryan suggested that flashing speed signs or a pedestrian controlled crossing might be an option. L Browne stated he would examine the possibility of a Low Cost Safety Scheme to address the matter raised.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr G Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr M McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council put a regeneration scheme in place for the neighbourhood centre in Drumgeely to include repair to tarmacadam surfaces and also repair to flower beds in the same area and also cutting back overgrown trees to the rear of Fergus Drive and Corrib Drive.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

Clare County Council has recently sprayed all weeds in this area in Drumgeely. The Council will now arrange for the removal of all vegetation and moss from the hard surfacing. Sweeping of all surfaces and gully cleaning will take place. Any damaged wall cappings will be replaced and minor surface repairs shall be carried out. Trees at the rear of Fergus Drive and Corrib have received some attention recently and some will be reassessed by a tree surgeon to determine what tree topping works are required.

Cllr Flynn expressed his satisfaction with the reply given. Cllr McKee remarked that there is also a lamppost in the area at an angle and asked if this could be looked into in with a view to repairing it.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr P McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr G Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“I will ask Clare County Council to incorporate a walkway/cycle access from Shannon Aerospace to the roundabout leading to Ballycally to include entrances to the industrial estate & footbridge to town entrance.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

The route from the entrance to Shannon Aerospace to the roundabout on the R472 is included in the Shannon Town & Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 as a proposed cycling route, however it has not been identified as a priority and is not included in the proposed initial phases for implementation. This can be reviewed when the next Local Area Plan is being considered.

Cllr McMahon commented that the route is frequently used by locals and tourists to walk, run or cycle and that it would make a significant contribution to Shannon Town if something could be done. Cllr Flynn felt it would be relatively straightforward to remove the infill in the area that previously prohibited illegal parking to allow a walkway/cycle path. L Browne indicated he would review same.

Ar moladh Cllr C Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council develop a playground facility for the highly populated communities of Westbury, Shannon Banks and Carraig Midhe. If there are difficulties in pursuing this proposed playground as a stand-alone Clare County Council project then I propose that the matter be also brought before Councillors in the Limerick City North Municipal District to see if it can be developed by way of inter-Council partnership and co-operation.”

Michael Neylon replied as follows:

To-date the Council has operated a very successful Community Playground Grant Scheme by means of funding from the Development Levy Fund.

A Public Private Partnership Model has been used to develop 29 new playgrounds that are now managed and operated by the community. Sadly, the funding is completely exhausted and the funding source from development levies is no longer available.

In the absence of a significant allocation of capital, the Council is, regrettably, not in a position to provide capital funding towards the provision of new playgrounds.

Cllr C Crowe stated that the area in question has a high population in the region of 15-20 thousand and it includes the suburb of Corbally and Limerick City. He suggested that if the District cannot pursue it as one entity that it be referred to Limerick City North Municipal District to see if a joint approach on the issue can be taken. Cllr Ryan stated this is an area where recreational facilities are lacking and that it would be worth pursuing.

Ar moladh Cllr J Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“I am requesting an answer with regards to the installation of a row of lights in Bunratty which have been out of action for a number of months. There are very decorative lights in a very old historic village an one of our biggest tourist attractions in the county. The number of the lights are from 2 – 10.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

Airtricity and the manufacturers of the lights, Philips, are working together to solve the problems with the decorative lights in Bunratty. They hope to begin repair work this week. This work will take approximately a week to complete.

Cllr J Crowe stated that it was completely unacceptable that it has taken until now to have the issue resolved with Bunratty village being one of the biggest tourist attractions in the region. He felt the lights in question should have been repaired 8 months ago when it was first reported. Cllr Ryan also expressed the same view as Cllr J Crowe that it has taken far too long to have the lights repaired.

10. *Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan*

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr J Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this municipal authority would carry out drainage at Windy Gap Road Sixmilebridge adjacent to Keogh's/Carroll's residents to eliminate flooding of these properties.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

Roadside drain cleaning and inlet opening will be carried out shortly along this stretch of the Windy Gap road. The road will also be monitored in wet conditions in order to assess the need for an additional road gully and piping at the lower end of this section of road.

Cllr Ryan was satisfied with the reply given and hoped the works could proceed in a timely manner. He also stated that Coillte have a responsibility here as there is water and debris coming out onto the road from the nearby wooded area. Cllr J Crowe concurred with Cllr Ryan.

11. *Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn*

Ar moladh Cllr G Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr M McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council get costings for the replacement and upgrade of lighting in a number of areas in Shannon to include: Finian, Purcell, O’Brien, De Lacey and Collins Parks. Lighting in these areas are no longer fit for purpose.”

John Strand replied as follows:

Tendering for work will only take place when capital funding is allocated to a specific project. Upgrading of public lighting has commenced in the Shannon district with a completely new installation in Aidan Park during late 2012.

Cllr Flynn felt the reply was unsatisfactory and it was agreed to request J Strand to elaborate further on the issue directly with Cllr Flynn. Cllr McKee remarked that lights around Purcell Park are sometimes on during the day and assumes any additional or replacement lighting will be with LED bulbs.

12. *Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon*

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“I will ask Clare County Council as a matter of urgency to put traffic calming measures on the Ballygirreen Road, Newmarket-on-Fergus due to excessive and dangerous speed of a minority of motorists.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

The L3156 Ballygirreen road, Newmarket-on-Fergus, is a narrow rural road. It has long straight sections which allow motorists to drive at excessive speeds. At junctions where the road is wider there are visible signs of tyre marks on the road created by motorists carrying out hand-brake turns. These problems are best solved by enforcement.

Clare County Council will arrange for some road markings to be placed on this road in order to warn motorists to slow down.

Cllr McMahon welcomed the reply and the putting in place extra new road markings. He also wished Michael Healy, Engineer a speedy recovery. The Cathaoirleach Cllr C Crowe expressed support and a speedy recovery on behalf of all members.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr C Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr G Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That the Clare County Council purchase several solar-powered speed detection signs that can be used throughout the Shannon Municipal District.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

While no funding is currently available to purchase this type of sign consideration could be given to purchasing a small number of such signs in 2015 subject to available resources and the identification of suitable locations for them to be positioned. Solar powered speed detection signs are far more expensive than regular road signs and are best suited to areas with 50kph or 60kph speed limits.

Cllr C Crowe stated that as a road user he found the panels useful in raising awareness. He stated that the panels were mobile and if a couple of them were purchased they could be moved around the Municipal District and act as a deterrent similar to the one in Roslevan, Ennis. Cllr Flynn concurred with Cllr C Crowe.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr J Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“I am looking for an update on the footpaths with regards to wheelchair access. I have already requested these paths to be upgraded to facilitate not alone wheelchair access but also with young families with buggies. Young mothers with buggies have to go out onto the road where steps are in the paths.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

Clare County Council are currently carrying out works to replace the steps in the footpath along the R471 at the Square in Sixmilebridge with a sloped footpath and to provide a

dropped kerb at the junction between the R462 and the Broadford Road (L3016) to facilitate crossing at this junction. Other surface repairs to the footpath along the R470 at the Square in Sixmilebridge are also being carried out which will improve the route for wheelchair users.

Cllr J Crowe stated that these works need to be done in various areas around the town with a view to making it more wheel chair friendly. Cllr Ryan remarked there were numerous places such as the area around the Library in Sixmilebridge where the paths are not wheelchair accessible and the situation was not acceptable. All present agreed it is a countywide issue for people with mobility issues and particularly for wheel chair users.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr J Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this municipal authority would carry out repairs to R.462 at Ballyliddane, Sixmilebridge as the road is subsiding and causing flooding outside some residents.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

The R462 regional road is showing signs of cracking and rutting at a number of locations at Ballyliddane, Sixmilebridge. This section of road will be monitored for further deterioration and repaired as necessary. Consideration will also be given to inclusion of this section of road in the 2015 Roadworks Programme.

Cllr Ryan was satisfied with the reply given.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr G Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr M McKee agus glacadh leis:

“With the winter season in mind, that Clare County Council put a programme in place to clean out all water gullies and other storm water infrastructure and that this be done on an annual basis.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

Gullies and storm water infrastructure throughout the Shannon Municipal District receive attention as required throughout the year. As the winter approaches the amount of such cleaning works will increase, these works are best carried out after most of leaves have fallen because many leaves are washed into gullies.

Cllr Flynn commented that the issue is a constant problem in Dun na Oir, Shannon and that if water channels are not kept free that the town gets flooded. He stated there were a couple of incidents recently reported to him by the public and asked who's responsibility was it – Irish Water or the Municipal District.

L Browne confirmed if it is a storm water pipe it is the Council and that wastewater pipes are the property of Irish Water. It was confirmed that a dual (foul and storm water sewer) is the responsibility of Irish Water. Cllr Flynn remarked that anything the Council could do to alleviate the problem would be welcomed. Cllr McKee said that the issue at Dun na Oir is historical and was on previous agendas in times past.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr P McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I will ask Clare County Council to take over the housing estate "Rosan" in Bunratty, Newmarket- on-Fergus"

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

An inspection of Rosan Bunraite estate is being carried out by the Shannon Municipal District Engineer and a schedule of the works is being finalised with a view to submitting same to the bond holders in order to substantiate our claim on the bond.

The developer has ceased trading and the Council will be engaging further with the bondholder when the technical assessment has been completed.

Cllr P McMahon was satisfied with the reply and commented that the local residents were looking after the estate as best they can. Cllr McMahon was happy that the negotiations with the bond holder were positive. Cllr Ryan felt it was time it was taken over. There was a general consensus that a review should be done of all estates in Shannon Municipal District, that are presently on the list for takeover. After a discussion, members decided to send their individual lists of estates to the meetings administrator who would follow-up with Planning on their status.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr C Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare County Council include drainage and resurfacing works on the Brickhill West (Cratloe) cul-de-sac in the 2015 Roadworks Programme."

Liam Browne replied as follows:

The sections of the cul-de-sac at Brickhill West, Cratloe which are public roads are the L7118 & L71181. The provision of drainage along this cul-de-sac will require significant funding due to the rock present at the ground surface. A source of funding will be required to carry out these works and they could be considered for inclusion in a future Community Improvement Scheme. Surface repairs will be undertaken, subject to available resources.

Cllr C Crowe welcomed the reply and requested that as the residents are paying the LPT that the works should be accommodated in the annual roadworks programme as opposed to the community road works scheme. Cllr Ryan commented there were previous motions on the matter.

19. *Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe*

Ar moladh Cllr J Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“With the increase with people using the local train station, not alone with passenger to the station but also to the new Scout house the stretch of road from the station to the village has no street lights, this is very dangerous for people using the station especially with the dark evenings coming in. I am requesting lighting for this section of road.”

Liam Browne replied as follows:

No funding is currently available for the provision of additional street lighting. Where limited funding is available it is being prioritised on upgrading and maintaining the existing public lighting infrastructure.

Cllr J Crowe was satisfied with the reply given and hoped the works could proceed subject to resources being available. Cllr Ryan stated he was not happy with the reply and this same issue had been brought up on numerous occasions before.

20. *AOB*

There were proposals in relation to two items of property namely Sixmilebridge Courthouse and lands for a playground at Drumgeely, Shannon which were brought to the attention of the members in writing by Corporate Services. Michael McNamara expressed his apologies to the Cathaoirleach for not being able to attend in order to brief the members further on this issue.

The proposal with regard to Sixmilebridge was proposed by Cllr G Flynn and seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and the lands for a playground at Drumgeely, Shannon was proposed by G Flynn and seconded by Cllr McKee. The members wished former Councillor Sean McLoughlin well with his endeavours on the Project.

As agreed at the start of the meeting a brief discussion took place on the Roads Programme for the Municipal District. It was agreed that all items raised will be reviewed by L Browne, Engineer. Roads discussed included work on the Square, Sixmilebridge, accident blackspots in and around Shannon Town, New Market on Fergus & Parteen School Road.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Shannon Electoral Area will be Tuesday 18th November, 2014.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cllr Cathal Crowe
Cathaoirleach

Signed:

Seamus Halpin
Meeting Administrator

Date:
