

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District meeting held on Tuesday
10th November 2015 at 9:45 am at the Offices of the Municipal
District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

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

Fiona Mooney, Meetings Administrator, Mr Eugene O' Shea Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Niall Barrett, Head of Finance, May Finucane, Assistant Staff Officer.

At the outset, it was proposed by Cllr McKee and seconded by Cllr John Crowe and agreed to suspend the standing orders to deal with an item from Cllr Mc Kee. Cllr McKee proposed the hosting of a civic recognition ceremony to mark the achievement of Team Aoibheann in their charity fundraiser and of Liam Alford who became a world champion kick boxer. This was agreed. The date chosen was Thursday 26th November at 7.30pm.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on Shannon Municipal District held on 8th September 2015

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8th September, 2015 were proposed by Cllr G. Flynn, seconded by Cllr C. Crowe and agreed. The referral of the matter of a playground for south East Clare to the CEO of the Limerick Council was to be checked.

2. Minutes of the budgetary meeting of Shannon Municipal District held on 28th October 2015

The minutes of the budget meeting held on 28th October 2015 were proposed by Cllr G. Flynn, seconded by Cllr John Crowe and agreed.

3. Meeting with Irish Water

Members criticised Irish Water and its media campaign for the future because it was felt that County Councils had done the best they could with the available resources. Members wished to have this agenda item on every meeting and wanted a meeting in the Council chamber with Irish Water. The lack of response from Irish water was noted.

4. Roads Programme

Mr E O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer reported that most of the works were completed, with a few road lining jobs and low cost safety projects ongoing. €20,000 from the GMA will be divided between use on radar speed detection units and footpaths repair. Members complimented the standard of work being achieved by staff, and asked if a leaf blower could be deployed when footpaths and roads are being cleared.

Niall Barrett reported there was approximately €20,000 unallocated from the GMA that could be allocated. This was discussed and on the proposal of Cllr McKee and seconding of Cllr. Cathal Crowe, and agreed by all, this was assigned for use by the senior executive engineer on footpaths and other contingency repair works.

5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr M McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr G. Flynn agus glacadh leis:

'That SMDC install more litter bins, particularly those that are suitable for dog 'poop', and erect more signs informing dog owners of the penalties of not cleaning up after them and that Clare County Council initiate a media campaign to encourage dog owners to be more responsible on this issue.'

Eugene O' Shea replied as follows:

The current litter bin service in Shannon Town was inherited from Shannon Development in the take-over of services in 2004 and, given the drain on scarce resources involved, a review of this service is timely. Any decision on changes to the level of the litter bin service provided should await this review. The council currently services 85 litter bins three times per week in the Town, and, uniquely to Shannon, many of them are located in housing estates. Consideration will be given to erection of signage at suitable locations around the Town subject to available resources.

The Environment Section will commence a media campaign in the coming months to raise awareness and to encourage dog owners to be more responsible in cleaning up after their dogs. It is intended that the campaign will involve all media - press, radio, and social media. Promotional material will be made available and on-site awareness campaigns will be carried out as part of the Green Schools and Blue Flag Beaches awareness programme activities. Environment Section currently makes "scoop the poop " bags available free of charge at municipal district offices for use by dog owners and they are also made available free of charge to Community Groups or Tidy Towns Groups on request.

While the initiatives referred to were welcomed, the need for litter, dog fouling, green waste disposal and parking in disabled spaces to be tackled by social policing was also raised.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr M McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis:

'That SMDC request the Financial Services Ombudsman to investigate why a number of insurance companies refuse to provide home insurance to Shannon residents due to a perceived flood risk, and instruct them to reverse this policy.'

Cllr McKee said that he has never known of a flood in his 40 years in Shannon and the refusal of insurance companies to give a quote was not right. Other members raised the same issue for Sixmilebridge and Shannon Banks. Following discussion, it was agreed that this motion should be also sent to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Minister for Finance.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Motions 7 and 14 were taken together at this point.

Ar moladh Cllr M McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr G. Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council take a more pro-active role in pursuing owners of derelict houses.”

M Meehan replied as follows:

The Council maintains a derelict sites register for the County. Currently there are fifty six properties on the register and a further forty four properties have received a section 8(2) notice. This notice requests them to address dereliction issues. If these issues are not addressed, then these properties will elevate to the register.

We endeavour to work with owners in the hope that they take responsibility for ensuring that their properties are presented to an acceptable standard. Where owners are not known or not contactable, the issue of addressing dereliction becomes more difficult. If there are particular properties the subject of this motion, we can certainly investigate them.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerry Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr G Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr M. McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council do an inventory of rental and vacant property in Shannon and notify the owners of their responsibilities under the litter control and derelict sites policy. Some of these properties are creating a bad impression of Shannon and do not contribute to the built environment of the town and if supported, the Minister for the Environment be advised of this problem.”

M Meehan replied as follows:

Resources are not available to undertake an inventory of all rental and vacant property in Shannon. Information as to whether a property is rented or not is not readily available and the issue of whether properties are vacant or not is not easily determined.

The Council is active in addressing derelict sites around the county and maintains a derelict sites register for the County. Currently there are fifty six properties on the register and a further forty four properties have received a section 8(2) notice. This notice requests them to address dereliction issues. If these issues are not addressed, then these properties will elevate to the register.

We endeavour to work with owners in the hope that they take responsibility for ensuring that their properties are presented to an acceptable standard. Where owners are not known or not contactable, the issue of addressing dereliction becomes more difficult. If there are particular properties of concern we will certainly endeavour to address them.

In discussion, members talked of the detrimental effect of vacant, neglected houses on neighbours and communities. It was agreed to refer the motion no 14 to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr P McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr J. Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"I wish to ask Clare County Council to bring to completion the takeover of Glen Cora Estate in Newmarket on Fergus as I understand matters are coming to a close."

B Haugh replied as follows:

This development is the subject of a Site Resolution Plan from Agents on behalf of the bondholders AIB, which was submitted and agreed with the Planning Authority, Shannon Municipal District and Irish Water. The Plan identified the agreed scope of works required to complete this development to the satisfaction of all parties for Taking in Charge.

Works have commenced on site on behalf of the Bondholders and in conjunction with Receiver/NAMA on 6th October 2015 and the Planning Authority is advised that the duration of the contract is 8 weeks. On completion of the agreed scope of works it is the intention of the Planning Authority to commence the Statutory Process for the Taking in Charge of this development.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I wish to ask Clare County Council on behalf of concerned residents, for a further update date on how well or otherwise on the takeover of Boheraroan Estate in Newmarket on Fergus is progressing."

B Haugh replied as follows:

Arrangements will be made to have this debris removed as soon as possible.

The Planning Authority recently met with the Receivers Deloitte & Touche and is awaiting the submission of an overall Site Resolution Plan for the Boheraroan development, which, once agreed, will address the outstanding issues within the development in order to complete the development to the required standard for Taking in Charge.

Following recent representations on behalf of the residents in relation to the lack of street lighting, the Planning Authority engaged with the Receivers requesting that arrangements be made for the once off repairs to be carried out to the public lighting. The Receivers have since arranged to have the necessary repairs carried out and it is understood the public lighting is now fully operational.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr P McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr M. McKee agus glacadh leis:

"That the Council investigate, as a matter of urgency, the extension of Lemenagh burial ground to cater for future burials in the area."

M Meehan replied as follows:

Currently there are twelve double plots and three single plots available in Lemenagh Burial Ground. There are also one hundred and twenty eight plots available in Illaunamanagh burial ground. Both of these burial grounds serve the local area.

Clare County Council operates a scheme of grant assistance to facilitate local community groups to provide extensions to burial grounds. The extension/provision of burial grounds by local community groups is possible and can be supported through the grant scheme.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr J Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr P. McMahon agus glacadh leis:

'I am requesting that the Municipal District contact the relevant parties with regard to the Shannon Doc base in Shannon as it seems that this base is being downgraded and for the people of the Shannon Municipal District this downgrade would adversely affect the whole district.'

Cllr J Crowe stated that there had been a transfer of the Shannondoc doctor from Shannon to Ennis and that it was imperative that the Shannondoc service remains in Shannon, so that Shannon town and its hinterland would be properly served.

Following discussion, which highlighted the presence of the international airport in Shannon and the high population there, it was agreed that the Shannondoc service would be raised with the Oireachtas members in Clare. The meetings administrator was requested to send the motion to Shannondoc, the HSE and the Minister for Health.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr J Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I am requesting that an audit be done on the Sixmilebridge footpaths as some of the paths are in a deplorable state and in need of maintenance urgently."

E O'Shea replied as follows:

Footpath renewal works have recently been undertaken at various locations in Sixmilebridge and further repairs will be undertaken subject to prioritisation of works and to available resources.

Clare County Council acknowledges that there are many footpaths in Sixmilebridge, as well as in other locations throughout the Municipal District, in need of improvement. Subject to resources and to other work demands the council will endeavour to compile an inventory of substandard paths in the town.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I am requesting that trees in the Sixmilebridge housing estate be trimmed as these trees are very high and are a danger to the community and buildings adjacent."

E O'Shea replied as follows:

The trees in question will be inspected and, subject to prioritisation of works and to available resources, will be considered for inclusion in the Municipal District works programme in 2016.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerry Flynn

At this point it was proposed by Cllr Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr John Crowe and agreed, to suspend the standing order to enable the meeting to continue in session.

Ar moladh Cllr G Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"That in view of the recent information revealed at the Joint Policing Committee, that the Minister for Justice be informed of the situation in Shannon Municipal District where a large amount of Gardaí stationed in Shannon are deployed on airport protection duty and as a result the town of Shannon and policing of it is compromised due to lack of community Gardaí available."

Following discussion, it was agreed the motion should be forwarded to the Minister for Justice.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerry Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr G Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr McKee agus glacadh leis:

"That the senior engineer advise the Council on the plans for maintenance and removal of trees from various parts of Shannon

- a) How many trees are to be taken out*
- b) The locations of tree removal*
- c) The cost of removal and maintenance measures."*

E O'Shea replied as follows:

A tender was recently awarded for the removal of 48 No. trees at various locations throughout the Shannon Municipal District at a cost of €19,300 +VAT.

The locations are as follows:

Cronin Grove, Shannon – 8 No; Cronin Gardens, Shannon – 5 No; Foyle Park, Shannon – 6 No Tradaree Court, Shannon – 6 No; Carrig Hill, Shannon - 6 No; Lisin, Shannon – 3 No Ballcasey Avenue, Shannon – 2 No; Shannonbanks – 3 No; Newmarket on Fergus – 3 No. Ballycannon Heights, Meelick – 2 No; R462 SMB/Kilmurray – 1 No; R462 SMB/Cratloe Road – 3 No.

In addition there will be tree maintenance works carried out at various locations principally in close proximity to public lighting columns at a total cost of €11,500 +VAT.

17. 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 and drainage to the R471 at Cappa Sixmilebridge near Quinns Forge.”

E O’Shea replied as follows:

This location will be inspected to determine options for dealing with the drainage issues referred to and the likely costs of solving these issues. Consideration will be given to inclusion of the necessary drainage / road repair works in the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District works subject to availability of resources and prioritisation of works.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr C. Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal Authority Request Iarnród Éireann to erect a more substantial mesh railing to bridge number UBE28 in Meelick.”

There was some discussion after the motion was adopted, with Cllr Crowe saying that a fence had been erected at the location in the previous 13 weeks but with Cllr PJ Ryan highlighting ongoing danger at the location. It was agreed that the motion be forwarded to Iarnród Éireann for reply.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal Authority would carry out surface repairs and drainage to short cul de sac at Brickhill Cratloe off L7118.”

E O’Shea replied as follows:

Extensive road works were undertaken in the current year on the L7118 in Brickhill West including the installation of a new road drainage system, road reconstruction and overlay works. These works benefit all residents using the L7118 including those residing on the short cul de sac road referred to. Subject to availability of resources and prioritisation of works this cul de sac road will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District works.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr G. Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council appraise the ongoing problem of speeding vehicles in the Westbury estate and the lack of hard stands to protect pedestrians at bus stops and apply for a Low Cost Safety Scheme to address these problems.”

E O’Shea replied as follows:

Traffic surveys are required to determine the nature and extent of traffic speeding issues in this estate and the outcome of these surveys as well as any accident history will determine the measures that may be required and will inform whether such measures can be funded by the NRA’s Low Cost Safety scheme. The issue of hard stands at bus stops within the estate will be assessed with a view to consideration of the necessary works for inclusion in the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District works.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr J Crowe agus glacadh leis:

‘That Clare County Council include much needed drainage works and resurfacing works on the Ballymorris Road (from its junction with the Portdrine Road and the N18) in the 2016 Roadworks Programme.’

E O’Shea replied as follows:

This road will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District works subject to prioritisation of works and to available funding.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr C Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr G. Flynn agus glacadh leis:

‘That Clare County Council assist the Meelick Development Committee in cutting back the high grass and briars which are growing on a designated public open space behind houses in the Ballycannon Heights estate and the stream that flows adjacent to this development.’

E O’Shea replied as follows:

Subject to available resources Clare County Council will provide assistance to the Meelick Development Committee in relation to specified works on public areas.

23. Correspondence

1. Circular PL 2/2015 (25 June 2015) Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2015 – Licensing of Outdoor Events and SI No 264 of 2015 (attached, for information). The regulations were noted. These may cause difficulty for event organisers.
2. Email 22 September 2015 regarding County Clare Festival and Events Guide (attached, for information)

24. AOB

Cllr J. Crowe proposed and it was agreed that a minibus should be hired to enable councillors to see motorway service stations already in place that conform to the Transportation Ireland design standard for such facilities. The meetings administrator was asked to organise same.

The next meeting was rescheduled by the agreement of all for 19th January, 2016 instead of 12th January, 2016

Signed: _____
Cllr PJ Ryan
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Fiona Mooney
Meeting Administrator

Date: _____