

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Shannon Meeting  
held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 9:45 am, at the offices of the  
Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare**

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

Mr Niall Barrett, Area Coordinator, Mr Eugene O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer, Ger Dollard, Director of Planning, Fiona Mooney, Meetings Administrator.

**1. Minutes of meeting of Shannon Municipal District held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of July 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 were proposed by Cllr Flynn, seconded by Cllr McKee and agreed.

Item 24 of the previous minutes (cutting of grass in housing estates) was referred to and it was confirmed that no costing had been done as yet. Cllr Cathal Crowe had a motion in to the full Council.

**2. Briefing on the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

The director of planning, Ger Dollard, briefed the members about public consultation that had been involved in the LECP preparation. Members' attention was drawn to the strategy outlined in the document and the high level goals. Further inputs were invited. Members agreed that the process would now move to the stage of developing actions and the members were advised they would be consulted again, when the actions were drafted.

**3. Coiste Comóradh Éirí Amach 1916 – 2016 - presentation**

The chairman welcomed Seán Ó'Nualáin and Labhrás Ó'Donnaile and briefed the meeting on the 7 strands of the 1916 national commemoration programme. Mr O'Nualáin gave a detailed presentation about the background to the commemoration planned for Shannon, the many different groups involved and talked about the multi-faceted aspects of the programme, including lectures, schools and youth involvement, and a sculptural commission. He indicated that the probable cost of all the activities would run to €19 or €20K.

In discussion, members expressed the view that the 30K allocation from central government for the county of Clare was too little.

**4. Shannon Town Woodlands - presentation**

The chairman welcomed Nicholas de Jong from Nicholas de Jong Associates Urban Design, who gave a presentation in the context his firm's appointment for the Shannon Green Infrastructure Plan. He wished to update the members on how progress could be made towards achieving the vision contained in the Green Infrastructure Plan for Shannon town.

The existing poor condition of the town park and proposals in relation to it were addressed in the presentation, including the creation within the woodland of 'The Oval' for which tender

drawings still had to be finalised, planning and felling requirements confirmed, tender documents published and tenders invited. The tender would include a contract maintenance period. The proposals for Tullyglass Hill were also addressed in the presentation, including: obtaining a valuation for the existing coniferous timber, confirming felling licence, preparing tender documents, inviting tenders, carrying out of felling, and replanting deciduous woodland. The tender would include a contract maintenance period.

Members referred to a prior project at Tullyvarraga Hill which had engendered much dissatisfaction in the community in Shannon and left an unsightly area where there had been woods and it was felt that any proposal for Tullyglass Hill involving the complete felling of the coniferous woodland to entirely replace it with a deciduous woodland would be opposed in the community. Members enquired as to the status of the title for the park and this would be clarified. Following long discussion, it was agreed that the proposals as outlined for the town park were a step in the right direction towards the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Plan. It was also accepted at this stage that the members did not agree with the Tullyglass proposal as presented.

#### **5. Meeting with Irish Water**

The members noted the reply by email from Irish Water but expressed continued dissatisfaction that Irish Water would not account for itself in the forum of Council chamber. Meetings administrator requested to write again to Irish Water and leave the item on the agenda.

#### **6. Proposed disposal of .106 acres of land to Shannon Town United AFC**

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

#### **7. Set dates for meetings 2015 - 2016. Proposed dates attached**

The schedule of meetings was proposed by Cllr Flynn, seconded by Cllr John Crowe and agreed.

#### **8. Grant Applications for Shannon Municipal District Community Grants Scheme 2015**

The chairman referred to the wonderful work underway by so many grant applicants throughout the district, and referred to the setting aside of €50K of funding being a first for the district. While applicants could not be awarded everything they sought, the chairman proposed a distribution of the funds to fifty two applicants and Cllr Cathal Crowe seconded the proposed awards of funding as set out, and this was agreed by all.

At this stage, it was proposed by Cllr Flynn and seconded by Cllr Ryan to suspend standing orders to enable the completion of the business of the meeting.

#### **9. Roads Programme**

It was reported that surface dressing works were complete. Restoration Improvement works were ongoing and would take another two weeks to complete. There were three low cost safety schemes and two CIS schemes to be completed. There were also ongoing footpath

repairs at various locations as well as ongoing routine maintenance works throughout the district.

#### **10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

"I am requesting the Council to trim the large poplar trees in the Foyle Park Estate, Shannon, as they are interfering with a lot of residents in that area."

**Eugene O'Shea, SEE replied as follows:**

*Tenders were recently invited for tree works at a number of proposed locations throughout the Shannon Municipal District including those at Foyle Park. These tenders are currently being assessed with a view to appointing a contractor to deal with as many of the proposed locations as possible within available resources.*

#### **11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

"I am requesting an update on street lighting that was requested from the railway station in Sixmilebridge to the village."

**Eugene O'Shea, SEE, replied as follows:**

*The estimated cost for supply and installation of street lighting at this location is approximately €15,000. A source of funding will have to be identified in order for this project to proceed.*

#### **12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

"I requesting an engineer to look at the possibility of a pedestrian crossing for the residents of Inis Ogra and Oakwood estates, Sixmilebridge, for safe crossing of the road to the national school."

**Eugene O'Shea, SEE, replied as follows:**

*There are continuous footpaths along the north side of the R470 Regional Road from Inis Orga and Oakwood leading to the existing pedestrian crossing at the National School providing for safe crossing to the school. Further pedestrian crossings on this stretch of road are not considered warranted.*

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Pat McMahon**

**Ar moladh Cllr McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Ryan agus glacadh leis:**

“I ask that Clare County Council, in the interests of safety, examine the width of the road between Carrigoran and Urlan Beg (Newmarket on Fergus R472).”

**Eugene O’Shea, SEE, replied as follows:**

*The R472 Regional Road at Carrigoran was widened and re-aligned over approx 500 metres as part of the N18 Ballycasey to Dromoland scheme some years ago. Travelling southwards from Carrigoran towards Shannon the road narrows to a width of 4.8 metres to 5.0 metres over a distance of approx 500 metres before widening again approaching Monument Cross. The accident database in the council’s MapRoad system indicates no evidence of an accident history at this location.*

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Pat McMahon**

**Ar moladh Cllr McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Ryan agus glacadh leis:**

“I ask that Clare County Council carry out emergency repairs on the public footpath at ‘the Green’ Newmarket on Fergus, as it is becoming hazardous for pedestrians and residents living in the area.”

**Eugene O’Shea, SEE, replied as follows:**

*Repairs to this footpath will be considered for inclusion in the Municipal District works programme subject to funding and prioritisation of works.*

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Pat McMahon**

**Ar moladh Cllr McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

“I ask Clare County for an up to date report on the take over of Lough Gash Estate Newmarket on Fergus. There are some public health issues that need urgent attention.”

**Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, replied as follows:**

*A claim was made on the Bond in relation to Lough Gash in October 2014 and a schedule of the outstanding works required to be carried out within this development together with a costing was sent to the bondholders in November 2014 to substantiate the Council’s claim on the bond. Agents were appointed on behalf of the bondholders and negotiations are ongoing with them to reach agreement on the outstanding schedule of works to be completed prior to consideration for Taking in Charge.*

*With regard to the alleged “public health issues” & following clarification with Cllr. Pat McMahon in relation to same, the Planning Authority notes that the reference relates to the front stone wall. I wish to advise that the repairs to this wall are included as part of the schedule of works to be carried out in agreement with the bondholders which requires that all boundary treatment works identified, are suitably repaired.*

#### **16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cathal Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

*“That Irish Water assess the cause of frequent bad odours at the sewage treatment plant in Ballycannon Heights (Meelick) and undertake any required remedial works as a matter of urgency.”*

**Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Water Services Department, replied as follows:**

*Clare County Council, acting as Agents of Irish Water became aware of an issue with the sewage treatment plant at Ballycannon Heights, Meelick, which arose from a mechanical failure of a blower and this has since been replaced. The Council are not aware of ‘frequent’ complaints of odours from this plant and wish to advise that there are no open work orders on the Maximo system in relation to Ballycannon Heights, Meelick.*

*In the event of consumers having issues or concerns, they should contact Irish Water through their call centre on 1890 278 278.*

*In addition, the Elected Members help desk is also available to members to notify Irish Water of their concerns in relation to Irish Water infrastructure.*

In discussion, members expressed the view that there was conflicting information had issued about the cause of the problem at this location and felt that more capital investment would be necessary there. Irish Water was criticised for reluctance to take over package treatment plants.

#### **17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cathal Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

*“That the Clare County Council CEO liaise with the Limerick City and County Council CEO with the view to providing a playground amenity area for the combined Westbury/Shannon Banks /Corbally communities.”*

**Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, replied as follows:**

*If the members adopt this motion, it can be referred to Limerick City and County Council. This Council has made no financial provision in 2015 to support new playgrounds.*

The chief executive was asked to raise the issue of the lack of a playground for the highly populated areas of South East Clare and the need to cater for the youth needs.

#### **18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cathal Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

“That the Shannon Municipal District in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, contact each school board of management in this functional area to offer assistance and advice to devise traffic management plans (e.g. signage, line markings, etc).”

**Eugene O’Shea, SEE, replied as follows:**

*The Shannon Municipal District is not sufficiently resourced to undertake a task such as that suggested. Traffic management plans for areas around schools are a matter for each school’s Board of Management and the Department of Education. The Shannon Municipal District is happy to liaise with consulting engineers / architects acting on behalf of any school in the District to discuss any such plans developed by them.*

In discussion, parking at schools was raised as a safety issue and members felt that school boards of management did not have the expertise in relation to traffic management. The need for parents driving children to school to have their awareness raised was also mentioned.

#### **19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor PJ Ryan**

**Ar moladh Cllr Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Flynn agus glacadh leis:**

“That this Municipal Authority would carry out repairs to the Ballyroe Road, Sixmilebridge, which will entail cutting back ditches and carrying out repairs to road surface”.

**Eugene O’Shea, SEE, replied as follows:**

*These repairs will be considered for inclusion in the roadworks programme subject to available resources.*

#### **20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor PJ Ryan**

**Ar moladh Cllr Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:**

“That this Municipal Authority would carry out drainage and repairs at the junction of Woodcock Hill/Gallows Hill Road, Cratloe.”

**Eugene O’Shea, SEE, replied as follows:**

*The road surface at this location is in a poor state of repair due to the absence of an appropriate drainage system to allow surface water to drain away from the road. The solution to this issue will be investigated on site and may require the co-operation of adjoining property owners.*

## 21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal Authority would carry out drainage repairs to Cappanteemore Road, Meelick”.

**Eugene O’Shea, SEE, replied as follows:**

*Significant restoration improvement works have been completed in the current years Roadworks programme at Cappateemore including drainage and pavement improvements. Subject to resources and prioritisation of works in 2016 these works will be continued south of Cappateemore Bridge and will deal with the drainage issue referred to.*

## 22. Correspondence

Both items of listed correspondence were noted by members.

1. *Letter from Office of the Minister for Social Protection, received on 30 July 2015 (attached) re Cllr McKee’s motion at July meeting.*
2. *Email from Irish Water dated 1 September 2015.*

## 23. AOB

Cllr Cathal Crowe talked about the 1916 commemoration ceremonies county wide and felt that inadequate funding provision had been made for it. A motion was put down to the full Council meeting.

Niall Barrett confirmed that the statutory window for the budget meeting was not yet advised.

Signed:

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Cllr PJ Ryan  
Cathaoirleach

Signed:

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Fiona Mooney  
Meeting Administrator

Date:

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