

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 9.45am at the offices of the Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare County Council

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

Eugene O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer, Deirdre Ryan, Staff Officer, Fiona Mooney, Meetings Administrator,

Apologies: Liam Conneally, Director of Service.

1. Minutes of meeting of Shannon Municipal District held on 8th November 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2016 were proposed by Cllr G Flynn, seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

2. Meeting with Irish Water

The members expressed continued dissatisfaction with the non attendance at a statutory meeting of the SMD and the approach to communication with elected members. Cllr G Flynn proposed and Cllr C Crowe seconded that this item remain on the agenda.

3. Shannon Municipal District 2017 Community Grants Scheme Launch

Cllr. J Crowe formally launched the Community Grants Scheme 2017. It was noted that application forms and the scheme criteria, as agreed by the members, were now available. Advertising in print and social media was pending. Closing date for receipt of applications is 23 February, 2017.

4. Moneen and Kilquane Burial Grounds

The meetings administrator confirmed she had received correspondence from the burial ground executive confirming matters were still in progress. Members confirmed they wished to do everything they can to support public access to burial grounds. Cllr. C Crowe proposed and Cllr J Crowe seconded that this item remain on the agenda and requested the attendance of the relevant officials at the next meeting.

5. Proposed Disposal of Land for Gaelscoil Donncha Rua, Shannon

The proposed disposal of land for Gaelscoil Donncha Rua, Shannon was proposed by Cllr PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr M McKee with the request that the small section of footpath be retained for public use or an alternative route be identified.

6. Shannon Town Park – Presentation by Brian McCarthy & Nicholas de Jong Associates

Cllr J Crowe welcomed Brian McCarthy Senior Planner and Nicholas de Jong of Urban Design Associates. Brian McCarthy gave a general overview of the Shannon Town Park

thus far, and Mr deJong briefed the members about the outcomes of the recent public consultation, circulating a detailed document at the meeting.

Public consultation included visit to the primary and secondary schools in the area, questionnaires displayed in Town Hall, Shannon Leisure Centre, the library in Shannon and questionnaires delivered to all residents of Bru na Sionna. 123 questionnaires were returned by the closing date of 2nd December 2016. Nicholas de Jong used the results of the consultation to compile the draft plan for the park which he presented. It was noted a further public consultation would occur on Thursday 12th January 2017 from 4.00pm to 8.00pm in the Oakwood Hotel, Shannon where the draft plan will be displayed and Nicholas de Jong Associates & Brian McCarthy will be in attendance to answer any questions or take any feedback. Following on from this it is envisaged that a plan will be prepared for Part VIII planning process by the end of January 2017.

The members welcomed the manner of the public consultation, in particular the school visits and the proposed design and layout of the park and its positive benefits to Shannon. A query about the title of the site was raised, and there was discussion about the importance of CCTV & lighting and ongoing & future maintenance.

7. Road Works Programme

Eugene O'Shea reported that the 2017 Road Works Programme is currently being compiled. He noted that the Senior Engineer had already written to the members inviting their submissions by 20th January in relation to the 2017 Road Works Programme. He also advised that funding from central government will again fall short of what is required. A pedestrian crossing at Cratloe Cross, drainage and surface dressing at Portdrine Road Cratloe, works at Parteen under the Low Cost Safety Scheme and works at Corrib Drive and O'Brien Park are all under consideration, subject to provision of funding.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee.

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That Shannon Municipal District request suitable traffic calming measures be put in place at the road from the Comprehensive roundabout to Cluain Airne".

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Bothar na Rinne, Road No. L3320, consists of two straight sections with a total length of approx 560 metres and is 7.3m wide. The ramped pedestrian crossing at the roundabout junction beside the Comprehensive school serves to reduce traffic speeds at the junction. A traffic survey is required in order to determine the need for further traffic calming measures and arrangements will be made at the earliest opportunity to undertake these surveys.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee.

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That SMDC request Irish Water to investigate and come up with a permanent solution to the ongoing, and constant burst water mains in Cill Chais and Delginis Shannon, which has left residents on too many occasions without a water supply. This has become an unacceptable situation and must be rectified as a matter of urgency”.

In discussion, the members expressed the view that that Irish Water should be present for SMD meetings to account for this and other items. Meetings administrator to request attendance at next meeting of Irish Water representative.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon.

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council would examine the road lay-out on the approaches to Stonehall National School in the interest of the school children’s safety”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

This narrow local road will be examined at the earliest opportunity to determine what, if any, improvements can be made in terms of slowing traffic on the approaches to the school.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon.

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“I would ask Clare County Council to examine the condition of the road surface near Jim O’Leary’s house in Newmarket on Fergus”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Works to improve the condition of the road pavement at this location are currently in progress.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon.

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“I ask Bus Eireann to provide a Bus Shelter and Bus Stop in the greater Leminagh area (R472) as the need exists especially for children & senior citizens”.

The meetings administrator was asked to write to Bus Eireann.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan.

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal District requests that traffic lights would be installed at Shannon Town roundabout”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The roundabout in question is at the junction of the N19 and R472 and falls within the remit of Transport Infrastructure Ireland as part of the National Road network and is maintained by Colas Roadbridge on behalf of TII. This proposal will be forwarded to TII for their consideration.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan.

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal District install a street light at Mill Lane Sixmilebridge”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Airtricity will be requested to inspect this location and to provide a quote for additional street lighting if considered warranted. Funding for the provision of street lighting throughout the county is very limited and any such installations are subject to available resources.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan.

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this Municipal District carryout drainage and repairs to Woodcock Hill Road at Gallows Hill, Cratloe “.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

As advised previously 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. This issue will be further investigated on site with a view to progressing a solution at the earliest opportunity.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn.

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

“That Shannon MDC designate the town of Shannon as an election poster free zone similar to that in Newmarket-On-Fergus . If required, that bye laws be put in place by the Council”.

Carmel Greene replied as follows:

The provisions of the Electoral Act, 1992 govern the timing of the erection of election posters and this legislation, in conjunction with the Litter Act are used to ensure that posters are erected and taken down within the prescribed time-frames.

One option to regulate or limit the areas in which posters can be erected would be the making of Bye-Laws under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2009, which would have a legal standing and could prohibit the erection of posters in particular areas or set down rules regarding the location or erection of the posters. Some local authorities have adopted protocols for the erection of temporary posters (such as Election Posters), including prohibition on the erection of posters in particular streets or areas. Another local authority has issued guidelines in relation to the erection of election posters.

It is understood that the arrangements in place in Newmarket on Fergus arose from a community initiative. In the interest of progressing this matter, the options could be considered by the Environmental and Transportation SPC.

Following extensive discussion, there was not unanimous support for the proposal and the motion was withdrawn.

At this point, Cllr Gerard Flynn proposed and Cllr Mike McKee seconded suspending standing orders in order to finish the meeting.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn.

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That in view of the alarming report from Clare County Council’s senior engineer concerning the inadequate condition of the river embankments to adequately protect the town of Shannon and the airport, that Shannon MDC call on the OPW to immediately put in place a plan of action to strengthen these flood defences”.

This motion was supported by all the members who considered this a priority matter. They reported that some residents in Shannon are unable to get household insurance. It was proposed by Cllr J Crowe and seconded by Cllr G Flynn, that a special meeting be convened at which the Director of Physical Development, Water Services & Environment; senior engineer Roads Section and a Shannon Group representative would attend.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn.

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Shannon MDC construct a small section of footpath from the upper concrete road in Drumgeely to the footpath on Bothar an Aerphort. This work would join up both footpaths and create a safe pedestrian route to access residential/ work and recreation areas”.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

There is certainly merit in this proposal as it would enhance pedestrian safety at this location. Requiring approx. 40 metres of new footpath construction it will be considered for inclusion in the 2017 programme of works subject to available funding and to prioritisation of works in the Shannon MD.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee.

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That SMDC request a meeting with officials from Respond to discuss issues relating to Rinneana View".

Cllr. McKee requested an invitation issue to Respond to attend an SMD meeting. The issues raised related to the energy efficiency of Respond properties.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I am looking for a footpath and lighting to connect the Santa Maria Nursing home to Walshes Cross, Cratloe. There are over 32 patients in the nursing home and for safety of residents and visitors a connection to the footpath at Walshes cross will give them safe access to Cratloe village".

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The total length of new footpath construction required to connect this nursing home to the existing footpath infrastructure in the village is approx. 350 metres with land acquisition required at the narrower road sections. While there is undoubted merit in this proposal the likely cost is beyond the maintenance / discretionary budget of the Shannon MD and a source of funding would therefore have to be identified if it is to progress. The emphasis of the Shannon Municipal District in respect of footpath works is to deal with the huge backlog of repair works to the existing infrastructure throughout the district within the limited resources currently available.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I am seeking a review of the pedestrian crossing off the main street, Sixmilebridge, as this is causing problems for pedestrians and motorists alike,"

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

While liaison with the Road Design Office in relation to this particular crossing is on-going the crossing currently appears to be operating satisfactorily. Upgrading of the road markings and of the flashing lights may suffice to alleviate any perceived problems for the road users.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“I am requesting that the trees in Beechwood Grove and the back of Cappa Lodge, Sixmilebridge be trimmed in the coming year.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The trees at these locations will be considered for inclusion in the Shannon MD programme of works during 2017 subject to prioritization of works and to availability of resources.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“With reference to Barry-Thomous Bridge on the Cratloe - Meelick parish boundary:

- i) That Clare County Council conduct a survey of the stonework beneath the arch.
- ii) That Clare County Council apply for funding for remedial works to the arch.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

A survey of this masonry arch bridge will be arranged as soon as possible and depending on the results of this survey it will be considered for inclusion by the council in future funding applications for bridge repairs.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Clare County Council install lighting on the roof of the Ballymorris underpass in Cratloe (beneath the N18 dual carriageway)”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The bridge structure at this location on the N18 is the responsibility of TII while Clare County Council has responsibility for the local road below linking the northern and southern sides of the dual carriageway. The council’s public lighting contractor has been requested to provide a costing for the provision of public lighting at this location, however, funding for the provision of street lighting throughout the county is very limited and any such installations are subject to available resources. TII has also been contacted in this regard.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“To curb anti-social behaviour I propose that Clare County Council block off one end of the alleyway behind houses No. 40 to No. 50 inclusive, in Shannon Banks and install a secure gate at the other end”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

There are a number of utility services in the alleyway referred to that will have to continue to be accessible for the utility providers concerned. There are also at least five individual pedestrian accesses directly onto the alleyway. The closing of the alleyway would also require the extinguishment of the public right of way. Rather than blocking off the alleyway it is suggested that softer measures are considered to deal with the issues raised.

26. Correspondence

- Letter received 2nd December 2016 from Shannon Commercial Properties.

The Members reported that at the January meeting of Clare County Council, which had been held in the airport, Rose Hynes Chairperson of Shannon Group, had suggested reissuing the invitation to Shannon Group to attend SMD Meeting.

27. Any Other Business (AOB)

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator