

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th November 2017 at 9.45am at the offices of the Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare

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

Liam Conneally Director of Service, Eugene O'Shea Senior Executive Engineer, Deirdre Ryan Meeting Administrator.

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of meeting of Shannon Municipal District held on 12th September 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2017 were proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn to include a proviso to Item No.7-Kilquane and Moneen Burial Grounds, that he had requested the Council's Chief Executive Council address the meeting. The adoption of the minutes was seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan.

2. Minutes of Shannon MD Budget Meeting held on 20th October 2017

The minutes of the Budget meeting held on Friday 20th October 2017 were proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and agreed.

3. Shannon Group Plc – Mary Considine Deputy CEO Presentation

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mary Considine Deputy CEO Shannon Group and also acknowledged the presentation made by Matthew Thomas CEO Shannon Group to the full council on the 13th November 2017. Ms. Considine welcomed the opportunity to address the Shannon MD Elected Members and spoke about the excellent relationship that exists between the Council and Shannon Group.

She explained the three trading entities operating within the Shannon Group since 2014; Shannon Airport Authority; Shannon Commercial Properties and Shannon Heritage, working together to enable and support economic development in the region.

She highlighted the current projects that are underway across the Group;

- Shannon Airport Authority:
She explained the Airport Authority is carrying a huge legacy of financial burdens. The airline business is very competitive and the Group are working to become more efficient and effective. The runway in Shannon is a huge asset and the Group are working very closely with a number of markets to build their brand and strengthen relationships. However, they are facing tough competition from Dublin as they are in a position to reduce their airport charges, due to volume, to attract carriers. Dublin's market share has grown to 87% and she advised that Shannon would benefit from state support.
- Shannon Commercial Properties:

There is a huge investment in their property portfolio they are refurbishing existing units and constructing new units to attract new business to the region and to facilitate the expansion of existing businesses. The Group is working in a partnership initiative with Dublin City University at Airport House to help nurture and mentor new businesses that they might develop and expand and take up residence in the Free Zone. The promotion of their property portfolio is underpinning the levels of activity in the airport.

- Shannon Heritage:

She spoke about the Master Plan for Bunratty which will be a significant uplift to the region. There were 900K visitors recorded in 2016.

The Members highlighted a number of concerns such as the reduced number of bus services at Shannon Airport compared to Dublin; encouraging visitors to stay in the region not just day trip visits; the connection between Shannon Town and the Airport.

She replied that it is Shannon Group's ambition to operate at full capacity and they have regular communication with Tourism Ireland to amend their National Tourism Targets for the country as a whole and introduce Specific Regional Tourism Targets. She also acknowledged that Shannon Town is critical to the Airport and Industrial Zone. Shannon Group has also made a submission to the National Spatial Strategy and she stressed the need for our Oireachtas Members to support the region and influence policy at a national level to reflect this support. The Group have a marketing strategy in place and as part of this they are specifically targeting areas in the country to advertise the region. She advised improvements in infrastructure such as new M17/M18 motorway can only have a positive effect.

Liam Conneally thanked Ms. Considine for her presentation and complimented the Shannon Group on their work since 2014. He acknowledged that Shannon Airport is the driver of economic activity in this region and confirmed that Shannon MD and Clare County Council will do everything in their power to promote and support the Shannon Group. He also noted that the membership of the Shannon Group Board of Directors should reflect the democratic view of the region. Ms. Considine confirmed that the appointment of membership to the board is a Ministerial decision.

The Members requested that a representative from the Shannon Group present at a Municipal District meeting bi-annually and Ms. Considine supported this request.

4. Shannon Town Park Report

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Andrea Goble Executive Architect Planning Section and she commenced by distributing a detailed report to the Members. She advised that the E-Tender for construction would be published on the 15th November 2017 and it was

anticipated that works would commence on site in January 2018 to be complete by mid-summer 2018. She confirmed a pump-track had been included in the final plan and the Gardai were consulted regarding CCTV cameras.

Liam Conneally complimented the Planning Team for their work and recommended the contractor liaise and update the Senior Executive Engineer regarding progress on site. He also requested that Andrea meet with him to discuss linking the two projects, the Shannon Wetlands and the Town Park together.

The Members fully supported these projects and requested that budgetary provision be made for maintenance after the three year contract had expired.

Cllr Gerard Flynn proposed and Cllr Pat McMahon seconded the standing orders being suspended in order to complete the business of the meeting.

5. Moneen and Kilquane Burial Grounds

It was agreed that this item would remain on the agenda.

6. Road Works Programme

Eugene O'Shea advised that restoration and improvement works and surface dressing works under the Schedule of MD Works were almost complete and the Pilot Low Cost Safety Scheme at Bothar na Rinne was ongoing. The Members were dissatisfied that no public consultation had taken place regarding this Pilot Scheme and because of it being a new type of scheme there should have been public consultation.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"I am requesting an update on works in respect of the Taking in Charge of Lough Ash Estate, Newmarket on Fergus on behalf of the long suffering residents."

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

Following lengthy discussions with the bondholder, the bond monies were paid over to Clare County Council in June 2017. A pricing document for the works from the available resources is being prepared for this and other development at present for tendering in early 2018 in order to progress this development to Taking in Charge.

Cllr Pat McMahon was delighted that progress was finally being made in this regard.

Cllr Mike Proposed and Cllr Gerard Flynn seconded requesting six monthly updates from Planning regarding the progress being made in the Taking in Charge of estates in Shannon MD. The Members agreed citing that it was unacceptable that Irish Water and Airtricity do not recognise estate that had not been taken in charge. They also called for resources to be made available to rectify issues with these estates.

They commended the great work being carried out by the Planning Team and recommended an in-house legal team be appointed.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"I am requesting the Council remove the overgrown grass from the footpath that leads from Monument Cross towards Lemenagh Graveyard, Newmarket on Fergus as the footpath is totally overgrown and unusable for some pedestrians."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Arrangements to undertake this necessary work will be made at the earliest opportunity subject to availability of resources.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"I am requesting the Council review the speed limit from Ballygireen to Urlanmore and Carrigoran to Monument Cross. The speed limit currently varies between 80km and 60km per hour and in the interest of the safety of all road users I request the speed limit on these roads be reduced to 60km per hour."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Changes to speed limits on public roads form part of the biennial Speed Limit Review and this proposal will be put forward for consideration in the next such review.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare County Council install new and more effective lighting along the path running between the GAA Club and Cronan Gardens."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The Council's public lighting maintenance contractor will be requested to examine the current lighting at this location, to consider what improvements may be necessary and to provide a costing for same. Any improvement works will be subject to availability of resources.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That repairs be carried out to the small stretch of the uneven surface of the road between Rinneanaview and Inis Ealga.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Settlement of the carriageway at this location will be investigated at the earliest opportunity with a view to undertaking necessary remedial works.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That SMDC seek urgent clarification from An Post in relation to their future plans for the Shannon Post Office’.

The Members fully supported this motion on foot of a letter that was issued by An Post that they intend to privatise this post office which could potentially result in a reduction in staff.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council overlay (i) the old section of the School Road in Parteen (recently used as a turning point for cars and parking of heavy plant machinery during the installation of the new pedestrian crossings in the village) and (ii) the lay-by / parking area in front of Parteen School.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Significant safety improvement works were recently completed at the 4-cross-roads junction in Parteen village including the installation of new traffic signals, construction of substantial lengths of new footpaths, new kerbing to the green area fronting Greenpark estate etc. While no funding is available in the current year for the works requested at Greenpark or on front of the school these areas will be considered for inclusion in the 2018 programme of works subject to resource availability and to prioritisation of works.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council improve street lighting in the Shannon Banks estate (A deputation of residents and I will endeavour to meet with Eugene O’Shea to show him the locations we have in mind prior to the MD meeting taking place.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Substantial improvements to the public lighting network in Shannon Banks were undertaken by the Council earlier this year in order to resolve a number of dark areas. Specifically the works included 3 No. new columns, 6 No. new LED lanterns and 1 No. 1 metre bracket on an existing lighting column. The Council’s public lighting maintenance contractor will be requested to examine the remaining lighting stock within the estate and requested to provide a costing for any proposed improvements at the earliest opportunity.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council's Road Design Office advance plans for traffic calming in the vicinity of Scoil Mhuire N.S. and Meelick Church so that an application for a Low Cost Safety Scheme in 2018 can be made.”

Ann Cronin replied as follows:

Consideration has been given to various traffic calming measures and an application has been submitted to the DTTAS for 2018 Low Cost Safety funding for Meelick.

16. 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 safety concerns on Tullyvarraga Road and the considerable amount of vehicles coming and going to Saint Conaires Primary School. That Clare County Council put in place off road parking similar to the project on Bothar Na Luachra that has proved very successful and that consideration be given to the Tullyvarraga Road junction with Bothar Na Luachra as traffic movement at this location has increased considerably and especially during school terms.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The demand for off-road parking on the Tullyvarraga Road in proximity to St. Conaire’s National School generally coincides with school drop-off and pick-up times. Creation of off-road parking is unlikely to satisfy this ever-increasing demand and will not necessarily improve traffic or pedestrian safety. It is considered that such a scheme would also impact negatively on the local streetscape. In relation to the Tullyvarraga Road junction with Bothar Na Luachra a detailed analysis of both traffic and pedestrian movements is required in order to ascertain the optimum form of junction control and consultation with the Road Design Office will be made in order to progress this matter.

Cllr Gerard Flynn advised that he was not satisfied with this reply. Eugene O’Shea explained that he assessed the issues with traffic and that they peak around school drop-off times only, and does not warrant interfering with the green streetscape of the area. He advised that he will refer this issue to the Road Design Team for their assessment.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mik McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council replace the sections of damaged footpath in the vicinity of the Doctors Surgery Killian Park. This particular section of footpath is in very bad condition and requires urgent remedial work to make it safe for the public and especially vulnerable people.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Arrangements to undertake these necessary footpath works will be made at the earliest opportunity subject to availability of resources.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council put an enhancement initiative in place to rectify the initial project that was carried out by the Council on the Tullyvarraga Hill Woodland some years ago under a Neighbourwood Scheme that didn't deliver the intended public amenity that was expected.

What I am requesting is, More Access, Better Pathways and Some Plan to Enhance the Existing Woodland that needs some attention in order to allow a proper maintenance program be put in place to protect this valuable amenity for the town of Shannon.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

A detailed study of the existing woodland area at Tullyvarraga Hill will be undertaken as soon as possible with a view to developing a set of proposals for enhancement including any necessary thinning, pruning, re-planting, access improvements and the development of a medium / long-term maintenance programme that will enhance this wonderful amenity for the town. A source of funding of any such improvements will need to be identified in due course.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“I request this Municipal District carry-out repairs to the N19 between the Old Customs Post site roundabout and the Airport car park.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Responsibility for the maintenance of the road pavement between the mini roundabout at the entrance to the SFZ West and the roundabout at Knockbeg Point currently rests with the Council. The section of road from Knockbeg to the airport car park is the responsibility of the Airport. TII is the funding source for repairs of the council-maintained section and a proposal is currently being prepared to deal with the issues on this section.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this MD would request the Department of Transport make sewerage and water connections available at the Knocklasheen junction with the Limerick Northern Distributor road to facilitate water and sewerage in the Meelick area.”

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this MD would carry out road alignment on the R470 at Church Street, Sixmilebridge .”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The road alignment at this location will be examined in order to determine what improvements, if any, can be made without compromising on road traffic and pedestrian safety in this urban environment.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I request the Municipal District install Traffic Calming Measures, in the interest of public safety, from the junction of Rossmanagher Road down to the Railway Bridge, Sixmilebridge as there are large housing developments in this area."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

In order to determine the warrant for traffic calming measures at this location a traffic survey is required and arrangements to undertake such a survey will be made as resources permit.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I am requesting that provision be made in the MD Road Works Plan for the extension of Public Lighting from Sixmilebridge along the R470 Newmarket on Fergus Road and along the R471 Clonlara Road."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Substantial road improvement works were undertaken at the R470 Newmarket on Fergus Road earlier this year with the co-operation of the local community including the creation of a new streetscape with adjacent kerbed green area. While it was not possible to complete works on the green area due to wet weather these works will be completed next spring. The council's public lighting contractor will be requested to provide a quotation for the lighting extensions requested. The possible inclusion of such works in the MD works programme will be subject to availability of funding and to prioritisation of works.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"I am requesting the road marking coming into the Square in Sixmilebridge be repainted as a matter of urgency."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Road markings at this location will be renewed at the earliest opportunity subject to resource availability.

25. Correspondence

- Email reply from Anthony Morrissey Munster Rugby in response to Members request to acknowledge the Club's use of Shannon AA logo on their player's sportswear

- Reply from TII in response to Members request to cut back overgrown vegetation on Shannon Town Roundabout. Cllr Gerard Flynn acknowledged this response and welcomed the proposals to cut back the vegetation however he has requested the TII meet with the stakeholders and agree a theme for the roundabout.
- Reply from Shannon Heritage in response to members request to extend the bus and car-park facilities in Bunratty to provide a new car-park.
- Letter from Patricia McCarthy Shannon Leisure Centre in response to reply from William Freeney Environment to Bottle Banks

26. Any Other Business (AOB)

- Shannon MD Community Grants Scheme
- Bank of Ireland Enterprising Towns Competition. The Members extended their best wishes to the two groups from the district, The Venue Project and Sixmilebridge Twinning Committee, that were attending the awards night hosted by the Bank of Ireland on 15th November 2017.
- The Members discussed the petition that was submitted to the meeting from the residents of Cappa Lodge, Sixmilebridge. Cllr Cathal Crowe proposed and Cllr PJ Ryan seconded the SEE meet with the residents to discuss these issued. Eugene O'Shea any such works would be subject to availability of funding and prioritisation of works.

The Meeting then concluded.

Cathaoirleach

16th January 2018

Meetings Administrator

16th January 2018