

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 12th September 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.

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

Apologies: Cllr John Crowe and Cllr Pat McMahon

Cllr Mike McKee opened the meeting and complimented the Shannon Festival Committee and volunteers for their hard work and commitment, the festival was a great success again this year and the Members agreed.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District meeting held on 11th July 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th July 2017 were proposed by Cllr PJ Ryan, seconded by Cllr Gerard Flynn and agreed.

2. Meeting with Irish Water.

Cllr Gerard Flynn proposed and Cllr PJ Ryan seconded issuing Irish Water Representatives with an open invitation to attend any meeting of the Shannon MD. The Members also agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda going forward.

The Members praised the outstanding work being carried out by the Council's Water Services Staff in the district but were disappointed by the lack of communication from Irish Water Ltd.

3. Proposed Declaration of Public Roads at Cluain Droichead, Sixmilebridge and Boheraroan, Newmarket on Fergus under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993

The declaration of public roads at Cluain Droichead, Sixmilebridge and Boheraroan, Newmarket on Fergus were both proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn, seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

4. Proposed Traffic Calming measures in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 on Bothar na Luachra, Shannon, Co. Clare

The Proposed Traffic Calming measures at Bothar na Luachra, Shannon, Co. Clare were proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr Cathal Crowe and agreed by all.

5. Community Facilities Scheme – Grant application approvals

The Members expressed their disappointment that the District was only allocated funding of €2,500 out of a total funding allocation of €64,000 for the County.

They were also disappointed that Bunratty Search and Rescue Service Ltd. were not successful in their application.

Cllr Cathal Crowe proposed and Cllr PJ Ryan seconded that the successful applicants from the district receive an increase in their grant to bring them all up to a maximum award of €1,000. The Meeting Administrator will advise the Judging Committee in this regard.

6. Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project

Cllr Mike McKee welcomed Greg Duff Chairperson; Olive Carey Secretary; Tom Chambers Treasurer of Duchas na Sionna and Ruairi O'Chonchuir from Local Authority Waters & Communities Office (LAWCO).

A detailed document was distributed to the meeting and a brief overview of the project was delivered. The group explained how the Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project will link in with the Green Infrastructure Projects already underway in the Town.

The project is being undertaken on a phased basis over four years and the Committee are seeking a commitment from Shannon MD for a total funding contribution of €20,000, to be paid on a phased basis over four years. This figure amounts to one fifth of the final project cost.

Ruairi O'Chonchuir – LAWCO explained the critical importance of wetlands and that Shannon is unique as this wetland is within the Town and can be used as an 'outdoor classroom' given it's location.

The Members thanked the group for their presentation and were in full support of this project and their funding request. Liam Conneally advised that funding will be sourced given that the Members have pledged their support. He also recommended the Wetlands Committee liaise with the Green Infrastructure Plan Team in the Council to ensure all the projects complement each other.

7. Moneen and Kilquane Burial Grounds

Cllr Gerard Flynn proposed and Cllr PJ Ryan seconded that this item be deferred to a future meeting and the Members agreed.

8. Roads Programme

Eugene O'Shea advised that the closing date for submissions for the Local Improvement Scheme was 14th September 2017.

Cllr Gerard Flynn requested to have improvement works carried out at Rineanna in conjunction with the Airport Authority as this is a relief road for emergency services.

Cllr Cathal Crowe referred to damage caused to a wall at Ballyglass and Parkroe Heights, this matter is being investigated by the Gardai.

*Cllr PJ Ryan advised the meeting that Cllr John Crowe and Cllr Pat McMahon had requested their Notice of Motions pass without debate. Cllr PJ Ryan proposed and Cllr Cathal Crowe seconded this proposal.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That due to the increased volume of traffic, Clare County Council install two speed ramps at the road between Lios Darog and Coill Mhara.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

A traffic survey is required to ascertain the extent of the traffic issues at this location and this survey will be undertaken as soon as possible. The outcome will inform the type of measures, if any, that are required, for which a source of funding will have to be identified for their implementation.

Cllr. Mike McKee was satisfied with this response.

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 Councils Planning Dept. be asked how they see the town of Shannon growing in light of their refusal to grant planning permission to Aldi to build a store in the town. This would have for the first time opened up the possibility of a streetscape for our town with the possibility of other stores, that are so badly needed, following suit. It would also have created many jobs, now lost.”

Brian McCarthy replied as follows:

The Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan, 2012-2018, and in particular Chapter 2 of same, sets out the placemaking framework for Shannon Town. In addition Section 5.4 of the Plan outlines the vision of the Planning Authority for an expanded town centre specifically relating to design and scale requirements. Objectives 5.7-5.14 of the Plan also set out specific objectives for the site. The objectives of the Local Area Plan are clear and the Planning Authority support proposals that comply with the objectives of same. It should be noted that the planning application referred to above is still within the appeal period to An Bord Pleanála and as such, and in the interest of due process to first and third parties, the Planning Authority will not be elaborating further with regard to same.

The Members fully supported this motion and Cllr Mike McKee acknowledged the application is still within the appeal period. He thanked the Members for their support and advised he will convey their support at the Public Meeting that has been arranged.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“ That SMDC request the landscaping contractors to make a determined effort to bring the Finian Park / Aidan Park green areas up to an acceptable standard”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The contract for grass-cutting in the Shannon MD was tendered earlier this year and a new contractor appointed. The familiarisation period for this contractor has led to issues with certain areas being omitted etc. initially but these issues have been largely ironed out at this stage. Any specific issues communicated to the MD office will be brought to the attention of the contractor without delay.

Cllr Mike McKee thanked Eugene for his reply and advised that it is not acceptable to leave cut grass strewn across footpaths.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

I ask Clare County Council, following the recent heavy rains, to arrange a survey of the drainage network in Shannon “.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Heavy rainfall on weekend of 19th /20th August last caused relatively minor road flooding in a small number of locations in Shannon. Arrangements will be made to deal with any blockages arising at the earliest opportunity.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“As Clare County Council has included the overlay of the Ballycar Road, Newmarket on Fergus in the Road Works Programme. I call on Irish Water to stand by their commitment to undertake the necessary upgrade of water mains in order to facilitate the road-works.”

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“I ask Clare County Council in the interest of the safety of the local community to reduce the speed limit from Monument Cross to Carrigoran, Newmarket on Fergus.”

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.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“Due to many complaints from the Shannon Community concerning the removal of the Bottle Bank from Shannon Leisure Centre to the Recycling Centre in Smithstown, that Clare

County Councils environmental section reconsider this decision in light of the many local residents that find this location too difficult to access and also the current arrangement has cost implications for the disposal of plastic.”

William Freney replied as follows:

Recent car park upgrade works carried out at Shannon Leisure Centre were not compatible with retention of the bottle bank service at the site and so it was decided to relocate the service to the purpose built Shannon Recycling Centre in Smithstown.

There has been a marked increase in the use of the Smithtown facility since the relocation of the bottle banks service to the site which brings greater benefits in more awareness for the public regarding other facilities available at the site. As it is a manned site, littering is not an issue as was the case at the Shannon Leisure Centre and it also has appropriate systems to accommodate large HGV's which are required to service the bottle banks weekly.

If stakeholders continue to experience difficulties in using the Shannon Recycling Centre consideration can be given to identifying another suitable site for a bottle bank in the Shannon area. However, there are technical, planning, operational, licensing and social issues that need to be addressed before a new site location could be agreed.

Cllr Gerard Flynn has requested the Environment Section investigate a second location for the bottle bank service in the Town on Council owned property.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That the Senior Planner in Clare County Council explain the rationale for refusing development in Shannon that would stimulate employment and encourage further investment in the town of Shannon. The current offering in Shannon as the second largest populated urban area falls well behind in choice of shopping for consumers.”

Brian McCarthy replied as follows:

The Planning Report on the above file (Ref 17/500) together with the associated refusal reasons sets out the Planning Authority's rationale for deciding to refuse permission for the proposed development. It should be noted that the application is still within the appeal period to An Bord Pleanala and as such, and in the interest of due process to first and third parties, the Planning Authority will not be elaborating further with regard to same.

Cllr Gerard Flynn was not satisfied with this reply and has requested the Senior Planner attend the next meeting of the MD to address this motion and to discuss the Economic Development Plans for Shannon Town. The Members supported this request.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That the Senior Engineer prioritise all necessary works required to enhance public infrastructure in order to enable people with disabilities have safe use of the footpath network in Shannon and that all necessary repairs or replacement be prioritised”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The enhancement of public infrastructure in Shannon to cater for people of all abilities is a priority of Clare County Council and of the office of the Shannon Municipal District. Such works have been on-going over the past number of years and will continue as required on a priority basis subject to availability of resources.

Cllr Gerard Flynn commended Eugene O’Shea on his response.

18. 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 drainage and surface repairs at Rossmanager Cross as this road is constantly flooding”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The location of this flooding is at the cross roads junction of the L7116 and L7112. All three approaches to the junction are contributing to the flow of storm water that accumulates in a hollow area at the cross where the adjacent lands are at a higher level than the road. Communication with the owner of the lands in question is required in order to explore possible solutions to this issue.

Cllr PJ Ryan recommended the Council investigate the possibility of using a trench that is already in existence further down the road for drainage.

19. 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 drainage and serious hedge trimming on the L3032 between Cooley Casey Bridge and Clogga Cross.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

These necessary works will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity subject to available resources.

Cllr PJ Ryan advised that intensive hedge-cutting would be required.

20. 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 relook at a previous motion to install traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossing at Cratloe Cross on the R462 as this junction is becoming increasingly dangerous for children crossing the road”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

This particular road scheme is included on the list of schemes in the Road Design Office to be considered for inclusion in the next submission to the TII's Regional Road Safety Officer for funding under the 2018 Regional and Local Roads Safety Improvement Works scheme.

Cllr PJ Ryan was satisfied with this response.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare Co. Council (I) devise a range of measures to make Pass Road in Meelick safer and, (II) liaise with the Limerick City Garda Division so that a traffic management plan can be implemented on days that Munster Rugby have home games at Thomond Park”.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

With just two accidents recorded on the council's Road Accident Database in recent years on this stretch of road there would not appear to be a significant road safety issue.

However given the narrow, winding nature of the road and it's strategic location on the outskirts of Limerick City a traffic survey will be undertaken in order to establish traffic speeds and volumes. This survey will inform any traffic safety proposals that might arise subsequently.

Liaison with the Limerick City Garda Division will be arranged as requested re Traffic Management on days of Munster Rugby home games.

Cllr Cathal Crowe requested he be allowed amend this motion to include Limerick City Council in point (II). He is therefore seeking Clare Co. Council liaise with Limerick City Garda Division and Limerick City Council so that a traffic management plan can be implemented on days that Munster Rugby have home games at Thomond Park

The Members support this request and motion.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare Co. Council progress the construction of a footpath between Meelick Stores and Ballycannon Graveyard and devise a series of traffic calming measures along this section of roadway.”

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

While there are short sections of existing footpaths along the L3068 between Meelick Stores and Ballycannon Graveyard, some of which are in a poor state of repair, there are considerable lengths of new footpaths required to link the two locations. The L3068 also varies considerably in width over this approx. 900 metres section and land-take will be required on some sections in order to facilitate the provision of new footpaths. As resources permit the Shannon MD office will arrange to survey this area at the earliest opportunity with a view to defining the likely constraints and developing a design that will necessarily include for drainage and public lighting requirements.

Cllr Cathal Crowe thanked Eugene O'Shea for his reply and confirmed that Meelick does not have footpath linkage the whole length of the village.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare Co. Council urgently rebuild the collapsed wall at the entrance to the Carraig Midhe estate, repair loosened boundary wall sections within the main body of the estate and do everything possible to fast-track the taking in charge process."

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

The Planning Authority is aware of the recently damaged front boundary wall as a result of an accident. We have notified the bondholders of this issue requesting that the repairs be addressed in the overall scope of the works. Shannon Municipal District office has been requested to arrange for the removal of the debris.

It is the intention of the Planning Authority to progress this development to Taking in Charge following completion of the outstanding works by the bondholders, to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Cllr Cathal Crowe has requested the Council carry out the remedial works as soon as possible and recoup the associated costs from the bondholder.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare County Council provide up to date information concerning progress on the taking in charge of Cluain Driochhead, Sixmilebridge."

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

I wish to advise that a report is going before the members for the September Meeting of Shannon M.D. for their consideration in relation to the Taking in Charge of this estate.

At this point in the Meeting Cllr Gerard Flynn proposed and Cllr Cathal Crowe seconded the Standing Orders be suspended in order to complete the business of the meeting. The Members agreed.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare County Council provide up to date information concerning progress on the taking in charge of Gort na nÚll, Sixmilebridge."

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

I wish to advise that works undertaken in this development by the bondholders are near completion and once completed to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, the statutory process in relation to the Taking in Charge of this estate will commence.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council provide up to date information concerning progress on the taking in charge of Ard na Greine, Sixmilebridge.”

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

I wish to advise that the Planning Authority are liaising with the developer of this estate in relation to the completion of the outstanding works and on completion of these works it is our intention to commence the statutory process in relation to the Taking in Charge of this estate.

27. Correspondence

- Irish Water (Item No. 2 on Agenda)
- Reply from National Transport Authority (NTA) to NOM “That Bus Eireann provide a bus shelter in the village of Newmarket on Fergus

28. Any Other Business (AOB)

- Cllr Cathal Crowe requested the Meeting Administrator write to Munster Rugby commending them on using the Shannon Airport Authority logo on their player’s shorts and the fact that Shannon Airport is their Official Airport Partner. The Members support this action.

Cathaoirleach

14th November 2017

Meetings Administrator

14th November 2017