

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 16th January 2018 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, Aidan O' Rourke Executive Engineer, Deirdre Ryan Meeting Administrator, Patricia O'Neill Staff Officer.

Apologies: None

The members expressed sympathy to Aidan O'Rourke and his family on the recent passing of his Father-In-Law – Philip Bourke, RIP.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 14th November 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr John Crowe and agreed by all.

2. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Special Meeting held on 18th December 2017

The minutes of the special meeting held on 18th December 2017 were proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and agreed by all.

3. Shannon Town Park – Nic De Jong presentation of Woodland Management Plan.

Nic De Jong addressed the meeting with a presentation on Tullyvarraga Hill Woodland Management Plan showing the existing situation and the management proposals. He stated that the natural regeneration is well established and the woodland today comprises of dense stands of young trees with a mix of various species. There is a network of informal trails through the site in varying conditions.

He stated that the long term vision is for the woodland to continue as an important part of the Green Infrastructure resource, and that the woodland continues to develop as an attractive natural amenity of high bio-diversity interest valued by the local community.

The management objectives:

- Enhance the woodland through appropriate low impact management;
- promote the area as an educational resource for schools and youth groups;
- ensure that the site is well connected to and complements other natural amenities in the area including Shannon Town Park and Shannon Looped Walks.
- Maintain and enhance wildlife habitats.

Mr. De Jong informed the meeting the findings of the management report will be circulated soon.

Janice Fuller, Ecologist also addressed the meeting stating that the woodland has developed naturally and have grown very well. In relation to thinning she advised that nature will do the thinning of trees. She also stated by opening up the trails it will further enhance the woodland.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn raised the issue of the provision of funding in order to advance the public walk ways in Tullyvarraga Hill.

Liam Conneally stated that on completion this Plan will assist the Council in seeking further funding. A Cost Plan will be included as part of the Management Plan to be carried out by Nic De Jong.

The Members supported this project.

Liam Conneally thanked Nic De Jong and Janis Fuller for addressing the meeting.

4. Sgt. Seamus Mulligan and Det. Sgt. Kevin O'Hagan, Shannon Garda Station.

Cllrs. Mike McKee welcomed Sgt. Seamus Mulligan and Det. Sgt. Kevin O'Hagan from Shannon Garda Station. Cllr. McKee stated that the Shannon residents were concerned in relation to recent assaults in the town, as reported on social media.

Cllr Gerard Flynn, also welcomed the Gardai and raised concerns in relation to the lack of visible Gardai patrolling on the Shannon Town's streets, security in Skycourt and the youthful age of offenders.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe raised concerns in relation to Garda resources in Shannon given that there is an Airport in Shannon, Child Protection and the restrictions on Gardai to question youths at a certain age. He also acknowledged the great work carried out by Gardai.

These concerns raised were supported by all the Members.

Cllr. Mike McKee also circulated a document on the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland, which is a nationwide consultation process to hear the views of individuals and communities around the country on a fundamental review of policing in Ireland.

Sgt. Mulligan welcomed the opportunity to address the Shannon MD Elected Members. He stated that while An Gardaí had been reduced in numbers in recent years the number of Gardaí stationed in Shannon compares well with other stations of a similar sized jurisdiction. He stated that checkpoints are carried out frequently and are part of a National Policy for the Policing Authority. Checkpoints are also important in the reduction of targeting criminals.

Sgt. Mulligan did acknowledge that they are looking into the presence of Garda on the street- patrolling by foot.

He also stated that the number of incidents reported at Shannon Garda Station for 2017 compares well with the figures from 2016 with no notable increase. He reiterated that all incidents reported are fully investigated and appropriate action where necessary is carried out. He emphasised the importance of the public reporting incidents and that Gardaí rely on intelligence from the public and confidentiality is assured.

These comments were further supported by Det. Sgt. Kevin O'Hagan, stating that comments on social media may not be the best forum for discussing recent incidents in Shannon Town and the public need to be assured that Shannon is a safe place to live and work. He also stated that in relation to youths involved in crime there is the Childrens Act and a Juvenile Liaison Officer and the Gardaí react in accordance with these regulations. The Gardaí also have a good working relationship with the Schools in the area.

Cllr Gerard Flynn raised a concern in relation to anti social behaviour and security in Sky Court. The Gardaí reiterated that anti social behaviour can be enforced through the Public Order Act.

Cllr. Pat McMahon asked about the Garda response to anti social behaviour in Council Houses.

Liam Conneally stated that Clare County Council has a good healthy working relationship with the Gardaí in relation to the housing tenants and other matters. He stated he would also like to commend the Gardaí for the good work they are doing in the face of adversity on our streets and thanked them for coming to address the Members.

5. Update from Shannon MD Environmental Patrol Warden Norah Murphy

A report prepared by Norah Murphy, Community Warden was circulated to the Members, which outlined the work, various projects and Environmental initiatives which were

undertaken in 2017 in the Shannon Municipal District. The Members commended the report and the great work carried out by Norah Murphy in her role as Community Warden with dedication, enthusiasm and the positive impact her role is having in the district.

The Members requested that Liam Conneally imparts their appreciation, support and the recognition of the work carried out by Norah Murphy in the Shannon Municipal District to the Management Team in Clare County Council.

Liam Conneally also reiterated the comments of the Members and will impart this to the Management Team.

The Members requested that Norah Murphy attend a meeting in the near future.

6. S183 Disposal of Property - Property at 82 Elton Court, Meelick, Co. Clare.

The proposed disposal of property at 82 Elton Court, Meelick, Co. Clare was proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and agreed by all.

7. Shannon Municipal District Community Grants Scheme 2018

It was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and agreed by all to launch the Shannon Municipal District Community Grants Scheme 2018.

8. Moneen and Kilquane Burial Grounds

It was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Cathal Crowe that this item be removed from the Agenda until such time as there is substantive progress with the Burial Ground Committees. This item to be replaced by a request that the OPW attend the next SMD meeting to address progress on Flood Protection in Shannon.

9. Road Works Programme

Aidan O'Rourke, Executive Engineer advised the Members that the Shannon Municipal District are currently preparing the Road Works Programme for 2018.

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

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

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

“Due to the huge disappointment of the people living on the Ballycar Road and the village of Newmarket on Fergus as a result of Irish Water having initially commenced works and then

abandoning them, to everyone's shock. I again request Irish Water to return to complete the works as promised."

Aidan O'Rourke advised the Members that when Irish Water have completed these works, Clare Co Council are ready to carry out the reinstatement works on this road.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

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

"I request Shannon Municipal District install a pedestrian crossing on the Limerick Road Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare as a matter of urgency."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

A detailed assessment of the physical environment and nearby amenities is first required along with traffic and pedestrian surveys etc. and these will be undertaken as soon as resources permit in order to establish if such a crossing is warranted. If it is deemed to be warranted then a source of funding will have to be identified for its construction/ installation.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

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

"Due to the major change in weather patterns and the flooding that occurred in recent times, I request the Council carry out an urgent survey with a view to installing a drainage upgrade in Cleanagh and its environs, Newmarket on Fergus."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Following the flooding that occurred at this location in December 2015 significant drainage works were undertaken by the Shannon MD during 2016 in order to prevent a recurrence. Downstream of the 2015 flood location the stream passes through private lands and a narrow culvert before discharging to Clenagh Lough. Water levels at this particular culvert will be monitored as required in order to ensure that it is kept clear of debris. The culvert will also be surveyed when water levels permit to confirm its structural condition.

Cllr. Pat McMahon requested that this be treated as a matter of urgency.

13. 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 repairs to the windy gap road in Cratloe as this has been very badly damaged by heavy vehicles transporting wood from Cratloe woods.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Damage to this road will be investigated and the forestry owner pursued in relation to recovery of the costs of any necessary repairs.

The Members agreed that Contractors and Forestry owners should be pursued for costs.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this M.D would take in charge the Deerpark Housing Estate, Sixmilebridge.”

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

There is no bond available in relation to this development. Significant monies were spent by the Local Authority in previous years in rectifying issues in this development however, there are still outstanding works to be carried out prior to consideration for Taking in Charge including surface water drainage and road resurfacing works which have been highlighted by the Shannon MD. A Section 180 request was received from the residents on 28th February, 2017. The resolution of outstanding issues on this development for Taking in Charge is contingent on the availability of funding.

The Members fully supported this motion and requested that this estate be taken in charge as a matter of urgency.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“That this M.D would improve sight distance at Feenagh Road Cross by carrying out thinning to hedges on the R471.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Works to improve sight distance at this busy junction will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

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 regular occurrence of flooding in the Dun an Oir housing area during times of heavy rainfall and the difficulty of the public infrastructure to cope with this that Clare County Council investigates the possibility of improvement to the network in Shannon as a priority to protect a number of properties at risk.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Three houses at the southern end of the Dun an Oir estate have been under threat of flooding during periods of exceptionally heavy precipitation in recent times. This has invariably occurred when the ground was saturated resulting in rainfall runoff from the more elevated green areas at the rear of the houses. Solutions to this issue, including any feasible improvements to the drainage network, will be investigated at the earliest opportunity with a view to eliminating flood risk.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested Liam Conneally to liaise with the Emergency Response Team in relation to responding to flooding in this housing estate.

17. 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 immediately commences the groundwork for the extension of Illaunmanagh Graveyard in Shannon and that due to numerous problems concerning loose cattle entering the graveyard that the Council would install a cattle grid at the entrance gate.”

Colette Costello, replied as follows:

The Council is at the preliminary stage of identifying a suitable site to facilitate an extension of Illaunamanagh Burial Ground and will report back to the Shannon MD at their next meeting. The members will be aware of the existence of allotments on the adjacent site and in that regard the site selection process will need to take this into consideration. It is proposed that upgrade works to the entrance will be addressed as part of the extension works.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested that a cattle grid be installed at this location as a matter of urgency.

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 expedites the Town Park Project in Shannon and that in view of the departure of the official that was involved with this that the Chief Executive appoints a Senior Official to advance this project and the other elements of the Green Infrastructure Plan for Shannon and also have in place oversight from the Shannon Municipal District Senior Engineer.”

Brian McCarthy, Acting Director of Services replied as follows:

The Shannon Town Park project was first developed with public consultation to master plan level during the preparation of the Shannon Green Infrastructure Plan 2013. The project also is an objective of the Shannon Town & Environs Local Area Plan 2012 – 2018. The 910,000 project will see the enhancement and incorporation of the existing town park woodland and the adjacent Rineanna Park into a flagship town park for the people of Shannon. Clare County Council was allocated €455,000 in EU funding from the Southern Regional Assembly's Operational Programme 2014-2020 and is funding the balance of the overall cost of the Shannon Town Park project.

A full design team, led by a Landscape Architect and Urban Designer, was appointed in late 2016 to progress the design and planning phases of the project which has included a number of public consultation events to inform the design of the Park.

Presently, Clare County Council has the tender process underway for contractors to implement the design and construct and landscape the park. Once the successful contractor has been appointed it is anticipated development of the park will occur over the summer.

The Project is currently on schedule and continues to be Project Managed, as it has been throughout the process, by senior staff in the Planning Department and the Shannon Municipal Office.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn raised concerns that this project is not progressing due the absence of a senior official that was involved in the project.

Liam Conneally stated that the project is on schedule in terms of delivery and not aware of a deficit in staffing levels. He will liaise with the Planning Department and reiterate that this project is a priority for Shannon Town and MD Members.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“I request Shannon MD replace the footpaths in Firhill Estate, Parteen as a matter of urgency as they are in a deplorable state.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Footpath remediation works at the Firhill Estate have been identified for inclusion in the Shannon MD Schedule of Works subject to availability of funding and prioritisation of works.

Cllr. John Crowe requested that this be given priority for funding under the 2018 Schedule of Works.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

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

“I request an update on the taking in charge of the Deerpark Housing Estate, Sixmilebridge.”

Bernadette Haugh replied as follows:

There is no bond available in relation to this development. Significant monies were spent by the Local Authority in previous year in rectifying issues in this development however, there are still outstanding works to be carried out prior to consideration for Taking in Charge including surface water drainage and road resurfacing works which have been highlighted by the Shannon MD. A Section 180 request was received from the residents on 28th February 2017. The resolution of outstanding issues on this development for Taking in Charge is contingent on the availability of funding.

The Members fully supported this motion and requested that this estate be taken in charge as a matter of urgency.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

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

“Due to the severe flooding in the Cappa area, Sixmilebridge, particularly at the rear of Chaplin’s & Reidy’s homes, I request Shannon MD carry out a site investigation with a view to rectifying this ongoing issue.”

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

A first phase of site investigation works has been completed at this location. Further investigation will be carried out shortly to determine the cause and to identify what works are necessary to rectify this matter.

Cllr. John Crowe requested that drainage works be carried out in the near future at this location.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That SMDC write to the refuse companies asking them to discontinue early morning collections."

Cllr. Mike McKee also request that the Refuse companies be pursued for damage to public property.

The Members requested that the Council write to Refuse companies operating in the St. Aidans and Finian Park area requesting them to change their collection times from 5.00 am to a later time.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That SMDC liaise with Respond with a view to jointly installing a footpath between Rineanna View and Dun na Ri."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The Shannon MD office will communicate with the Respond agency as requested with a view to resolving this issue.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That SMDC view with concern the proposed closure of the South Clare Youthreach programme and call on the LCETB to reverse this decision."

The Meetings Administrator to write to LCETB to clarify the rational for the proposed closer and requesting that consideration be given to reversing this decision.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

“That drainage and resurfacing works on the Portdrine Road in Cratloe be provided for in the 2018 Roadworks Programme.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Restoration improvement works on this road have been identified for inclusion in the 2018 Shannon MD Schedule of Works subject to availability of funding and prioritisation of works.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe thanked Eugene O’Shea for meeting with the Residents on site and emphasised the prioritisation for these works.

26. 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 provide a footpath and streetlights for the residents of Cappagh Lodge, Sixmilebridge.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Construction costs for a footpath over this 300 metre section of the R470 would cost in excess of €35,000. Additional cost associated with improving drainage, public lighting and road alteration on the narrower road sections etc. would also have to be taken into account. In order for such a scheme to progress a source of funding will first have to be identified.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe stated that the provision of street lighting was raised at a previous meeting. The motion was supported by all the Members.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

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

“That Clare County Council urgently look at a revised junction layout, possibly including a mini roundabout, at Larkin’s Cross Parteen.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

A ghost island arrangement was installed some years ago on the R463 at Larkins Cross as the appropriate traffic control for this location. Traffic surveys are required in order to determine if traffic patterns have altered since the installation of the ghost islands and arrangements for these surveys will be made as soon as possible.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested that a Low Cost Safety study be considered.

28. Correspondence

- Reply from TII in response to Members request regarding Shannon Town Roundabout. The members expressed their disappointment on the response received from TII and requested that Liam Conneally make direct contact with TII for a representative to attend the next meeting. Liam Conneally concurred with the views of the members and will request a representative to attend the next meeting.
- Reply from An Post regarding Shannon Post Office. The members welcomed the response from An Post.

29. Any Other Business (AOB)

Planning Department Report – 6 monthly update on Taking in Charge of Estates in the MD. The Members commended Bernadette Haugh and the Planning Team on the provision of an up to date planning report on Taking in Charge of Estates in the Shannon MD.

The Meeting then concluded.

Cathaoirleach

20th March 2018

Meetings Administrator

20th March 2018