

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday,
20th March 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, Tom Tiernan Senior Engineer, Eugene O'Shea Senior Executive Engineer, Patricia O'Neill Meetings Administrator.

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting on Tuesday 16th January, 2018

Cllr. Mike McKee opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th January, 2018 were proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.

Matters arising

Item no. 17 on Minutes from meeting of 16th January, 2018. Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested that the Director of Service for Rural Development attend the next Shannon MD Meeting to update the Elected Members on the extension of Illaunamanagh Burial Ground as stated in reply to Notice of Motion.

Item no. 27 on Minutes from meeting of 16th January, 2018. Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested if a Low Cost Safety Study could be carried out at Larkins Cross in 2018 with a view to including in 2019 Roads Works Programme. Eugene O'Shea confirmed that this will be pursued in 2018.

2. Shannon Flood Defence Infrastructure progress update.

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer addressed the meeting to update the Members on Shannon Flood Defence Infrastructure. The Consultants engaged to assess the structural integrity of the Shannon Embankments have advanced well at this stage. Topographical studies has been completed with the geotechnical investigation progressing. The first draft of the comprehensive report will be completed by early April '18. It is intended by the end of April the steering group will be briefed with the final draft.

A discussion took place with the Members indicating their support for this assessment, acknowledging the contribution Tom Tiernan has made on this issue and also in highlighting same. The Members also raised concerns that a number of residents in the town are unable

to get insurance cover due to the threat of flooding, climate change having an impact and the consequences for people living and working in Shannon.

Tom Tiernan responded that Clare County Council is the lead authority in this endeavour and is working with Shannon Airport Group and the OPW to establish the structural integrity of the town embankments. The report will detail the recommendations, remedial works and cost.

Liam Conneally stated that Clare County Council Chief Executive has raised this as a priority issue for the Council. Shannon is a critical piece of infrastructure due to the airport, the industrial zone, employment and benefits that it brings to the local economy and Mid-West Region while also emphasising the safety of the people living and working in Shannon town. He also commended Tom Tiernan on the progress made to date on this issue.

3. Report on Distribution of IPB Dividend

Tom Tiernan addressed the meeting and outlined the capital distribution in the sum of €2.371m from Irish Public Bodies (IPB) will be allocated to infrastructure improvements to footpaths to address known claims hotspots associated with trips and fall, road drainage deficiencies, environmental hazards, hazards/risks associated with Council owned assets/properties and other situations where health and safety related risks can be mitigated.

€1.6m of this allocation will be spent on footpath improvements throughout the county with €300,000 allocated to the Shannon MD.

A discussion took place in relation to the distribution of this sum.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan queried if there was too much of an emphasis on prioritising footpaths which were the subject of public liability claims while other footpaths which are in a bad condition are not repaired.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn queried if the distribution of the IPB dividend was evenly distributed throughout the County.

Tom Tiernan clarified the distribution of this allocation.

4. Schedule of Municipal District Works

A presentation was made by Tom Tiernan with regard to the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) 2018 having circulated the detailed document to the Members.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested that a map of the roads be included with future SMDW documentation which will facilitate in identifying the location of the roads. This was noted by Tom Tiernan.

Overall there is an increase of 15% when compared with 2017 funding in respect of what is available for 2018 to maintain and manage the county's road network. In addition to the normal grant the sum of €1.9m is available for 2018 via an IPBMI Dividend as per item no. 3 on the agenda.

Page 8 of the document is an indicator of the expected output for 2018 for Non National Roads, which depicts that 5.67% of the County's non national roads will be completed in 2018 showing a significant increase when compared with 2017.

Appendix 3 relates specifically to the Shannon Municipal District roads area.

Queries raised by the Members were addressed by Tom Tiernan.

The Members thanked Tom Tiernan for his presentation and also took this opportunity to thank Tom for his valued contribution over the years, professionalism and expertise and wished him well in the future.

Liam Conneally gave a presentation with regards to the Housing Draft SMDW 2018

Housing Capital – Construction of 47 units has commenced with completion expected in 2019. The Department has a target set on Housing delivery of 189 units annually through acquisition, long and short term leasing which the Council are working with approved Housing bodies in order to achieve this target. The Public Private Partnership Scheme in Shannon for the delivery of social housing units will also commence in 2018.

An allocation of €200,000 is being provided for the corrective and routine maintenance of the Council's stock of social housing. In addition to routine maintenance is the planned maintenance plan which will include an entire housing stock condition survey in 2018. The sock conditioning survey will provide a full picture of the condition of the Council's housing stock and this data will be used to determine the level of expenditure. A loan of €10m has been sanctioned by Clare County Council Members over the next 5 years.

Cllr. PJ Ryan and Cllr. Pat McMahan asked about the provision of houses in the countryside as an alternative to urban housing estates. Liam informed the Members that the Chief Executive has submitted a proposal to the Department regarding a formal resettlement initiative identify gap sites, brown field sites and areas of depopulation in order to revitalise rural villages.

The Members thanked Liam for his presentation. The adoption of the proposed Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2018 was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

At this stage of the meeting it was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Cathal Crowe to suspend the standing orders in order to continue with the business of the meeting.

5. Proposed lease of Tullyvarraga Community Hall, Shannon.

Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.

6. Proposed Declaration of Public Roads at the following locations - i) Cratloe Wood, Cratloe, ii) Greylon Park, Cratloe, iii) O'Garney Heights, Sixmilebridge.

Proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and agreed by all.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr.P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That this MD please furnish me with an update regarding the provision of a Pedestrian crossing at Cratloe Cross and also Traffic Calming measures for the same area.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

A proposal for the provision of a Pedestrian crossing at this location was submitted in 2017 by the Road Design Office to the TII under the Low Cost Safety Improvement scheme but unfortunately did not receive funding. A further proposal for works at this location will be re-submitted later this year for funding in 2019.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan expressed his disappointment at the response received and requested that funding be sought to complete this work. Cllr. John Crowe and Cllr. Cathal Crowe supported this motion.

At this stage of the meeting Item no. 16 from Cllr. Mike McKee was taken together with item no. 8 from Cllr. P.J. Ryan.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr. Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That this MD would install Traffic Lights or a Roundabout on the Bothar na Luachra Road at the Junction with Bothar Linn/ Slí na tSionaigh (Cronan/Inis Ealga, Carrig Hill Junction) as this has been the scene of numerous traffic related collisions”.

16. 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 seek ways of making the junction at Cronan/Inis Ealga safer after a recent spate of car collisions”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

While the council’s road accident database does not indicate a road accident issue at this particular location it will be monitored with a view to assessing whether improvements can be made. The cause of traffic-related collisions is most likely associated with driver behaviour including excessive speed and driver distraction and these issues may best be dealt with through educational / advertising campaigns.

It was agreed that Eugene O’Shea would follow up with the Road Design Team in relation to carrying out an assessment at this location.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr.

Cuidithe ag Cllr. agus glacadh leis:

“That this MD construct a footpath, tarmacked and kerbed from the nearest road point in Parkroe Housing Estate (Ardnacrusha) to the "Gap in the Wall"; Provide a staggered wheelchair friendly ramp; construct a wheelchair friendly, kerbed pathway to nearest hammer head on Ballyglass Housing Estate side of wall; and install a street light at this point”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The legitimacy of this “gap in the wall” has been questioned in recent times by the local communities in both Parkroe Heights and Ballyglass residential developments who have petitioned to have it closed. Until this issue is finally resolved the improvements proposed are considered pre-mature. In any event there is no funding provision for these extensive works in the 2018 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

It was agreed by the Members that Eugene O’Shea would seek legal advice and clarification as to whether a Right of Way exists at this location.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon

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

“I request Clare County Council to install a speed messages sign at the entrance to Boheraroan Estate, Newmarket-on-Fergus to curtail the excessive speed of some motorists”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

A traffic survey at the R472 approaches to the Boheraroan development will be undertaken as soon as possible in order to ascertain the warrant for a driver feedback or similar type sign.

Cllr. Pat McMahon welcomed this response.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon

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

“That Clare County Council investigate and try and resolve the flooding that takes place at Ballinoosky and Urlanmore, Newmarket-on-Fergus as it is dangerous after heavy rain”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The flooding issue referred to will be investigated at the earliest opportunity in order to ascertain it’s cause and to consider possible solutions the implementation of which will be subject to availability of resources.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon

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

“That Clare County Council investigate and resolve the flooding that takes place at Knocksaggart, Newmarket-on-Fergus”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

This flooding issue will be investigated as soon as resources permit with a view to finding a solution that can be implemented without delay.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“ That Clare County Councils Director of Social Development And The Manager of Sport and Recreation investigate the possibility of acquiring The Old De Beers Site in Tullyvarraga Shannon and Develop a Municipal Sports Complex similar to that Owned And Managed at Lee’s Road in Ennis . The site in Shannon was once The Hub of Sports activity in Shannon and is strategically located and appropriately zoned to once again rise from the Derelict State it is now in”.

Liam Conneally replied as follows:

The above mentioned site is registered and privately owned. The site, formerly owned by the DeBeers Industrial Diamond Company is based in the Shannon Industrial Estate and was known as the Shannon Diamond & Carbide, Sports & Social Club.

The site is not on the Council’s derelict sites register. The area of the site in Shannon is 6.4 hectares (15.8acres).

The site once consisted of the following facilities. A Clubhouse with a multi-purpose Hall, 2 x Bars, Snooker Room, 2 Squash Courts and Meeting Rooms. The outdoor facilities included a Rugby, Soccer and GAA pitch, a 9 hole Pitch & Putt Course and 2 x Tennis Courts. The Clubhouse was destroyed in a fire and the surrounding areas have fallen into disrepair. Clare County Council have a right of way through the site see attached map. Regarding a possible property acquisition I have requested the Council’s head of Sport to investigate if the property is for sale. In the meantime the Council will prepare a due diligence report.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“ That Shannon Municipal District call on The Minister for Finance Paschal O’Donohoe to investigate the dealings of NAMA in relation to the Development in Bru Na Sionna Shannon and also that he would indicate what support he intends to put in place for owners of property in Bru na Sionna that are now faced with huge costs to rectify defects identified from recent inspections that has caused serious stress to residents who bought in good faith and are now struggling to save their homes”.

This motion was fully supported by all the Members.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested that the letter to Minister O’Donohoe should also highlight the support the Elected Members are giving to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“ That Shannon Municipal District call on Clare County Council to repair or replace the Black Top Footpath outside house numbers 15/16/ 17/18 Tullyglass Crescent as it is in a very dangerous condition and causing undue hardship for the public using this route. This request has been made over a number of years and is a safety issue”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Repairs to the footpath at this location will be undertaken during the current year’s roadworks programme subject to prioritisation of works and availability of resources.

Item no. 16 was dealt with Item no. 8 earlier.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr. Mike McKee

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

“That SMDC invite the Principals of the 6 primary schools in Shannon to a meeting to find some common ground in relation to the provision of an ASD unit in the town”.

Cllr. Mike McKee requested the support of the Members to receive a deputation to address the meeting in relation to this Notice of Motion. All the Members fully support this deputation.

Philip Robert addressed the Members and explained how his 5 year old son on the autism spectrum who is due to commence primary school in September 2018 has been unsuccessful in locating a school locally with an ASD unit. He explained the importance of early intervention for children on the autism spectrum is key in their development and learning. Mr. Robert outlined that an ASD unit comprises of 6 children and 2 adults. He also stated that Ballycar National School applied for an ASD unit but was refused on the basis that there was not a demand in the area.

The Members also agreed that the Minister for State Pat Breen should also be written to in order to raise this with the Government.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon agus glacadh leis:

“That traffic calming measures to be installed in Bunratty Village due to the large volume of traffic passing through and for the safety of pedestrians in this area”.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

In order to determine whether traffic calming measures are warranted in Bunratty Village a detailed traffic survey will have to be undertaken and arrangements to have this survey carried out will be made as soon as possible.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe

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

"I request this Municipal District to carry out the necessary repair works to the road leading to Bunratty Graveyard, which is currently in a deplorable state and in order to make it safe for the public visiting this Graveyard".

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The road leading to Bunratty Graveyard also serves local farmlands and acts as a service access for the Bunratty Castle Hotel, however it is not in charge of the council. While the council is therefore not in a position to repair this road the local community may wish to consider applying for road improvement funding under the 2018 Local Improvement Scheme which applies to non-public roads.

20. 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 carry out the following works at the rear of properties on Lodge Road and Church Street in Sixmilebridge to mitigate against anti-social behaviour and make the walkway between properties safer for pedestrians:

- i) Remove old concrete fence and replace with bollards.
- ii) Remove sludge from road surface and overlay with gravel".

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Subject to prioritisation of works and to availability of resources these proposed improvements will be considered for inclusion in the current years works programme.

This was supported by all the Members.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr. Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council install a new section of footpath to connect the existing footpaths on the upper and lower ends of the School Road in Parteen”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Significant road realignment works were undertaken on the southern end of the School Road (L3060) in recent years. These works included widening of the carriageway and new footpath construction from Larkins Cross towards Parteen Village. However due to funding limitations it was not possible to carry these works further towards the village at the northern end of School Road. The existing road alignment at this location is poor and the carriageway width is insufficient to provide for a new section of footpath within the existing road boundaries. If a new footpath is to be installed to close the approx 400 metre gap between the existing footpath infrastructure north and south then this will have to form part of a larger road realignment scheme the cost of which will be very significant and beyond the resource capability of the Shannon MD. The Specific Improvement Grant administered by the Department of Transport may be a source of funding for such a scheme and this option will be explored at the earliest opportunity.

22. 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 install signage and paint new road markings on the 4 approaches to White’s Cross, and also the road from White’s Cross to Gavin’s Cross, to make the area safer for pedestrians”.

Eugene O’Shea replied as follow:

The existing signage including road markings at White’s Cross and the road from White’s Cross to Gavin’s Cross will be inspected and any deficiencies identified will be rectified as soon as possible.

23. Correspondence

Reply from LCETB regarding South Clare Youthreach Programme. Cllr. Mike McKee informed the meeting that while it has stated on the attached correspondence that as part of the review a consultation process began in November 2017, this consultation process with parents has not yet commenced.

24. AOB

- Cllr. Mike McKee proposed a vote of congratulations to the organising committee and all involved in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Shannon. Cllr. John Crowe also congratulated the organisers of the Sixmilebridge St. Patrick's Day Parade. This was seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
- The Members also wished to extend congratulations to the Irish Rugby Team on winning the Grand Slam and Triple Crown on St. Patrick's Day. Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested that the Shannon Municipal District write a letter of congratulations to the Earls family in Meelick to commend Keith Earls on his fantastic contribution to the Irish Rugby Teams success.
- Cllr. Mike McKee proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Jamie Higgins RIP who died tragically in Shannon over St. Patrick's weekend. This was seconded by Cllr. John Crowe.
- Cllr. Gerard Flynn called on the Cathaoirleach of the Shannon MD to arrange a follow up meeting with the Superintendent from Shannon Garda Station in light of the tragic death of Jamie Higgins RIP.
- The Members unanimously expressed their disappointment in learning of the reassignment of Mr. John Lynch, Senior General Services Supervisor from the Shannon Municipal District to the West Clare Municipal District. The Members wished that their dissatisfaction be recorded. Liam Conneally agreed to convey their sentiments to Management Team.

The meeting then concluded.

Cathaoirleach

8th May, 2018

Meetings Administrator

8th May 2018