

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Thursday 29th July, 2021 at 9.45am in Treacys Oakwood Hotel, Airport Road, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

Councillors Present in person: Councillors John Crowe (Cathaoirleach), Pat McMahon, Gerard Flynn, Donna McGettigan, Pat O’Gorman and Michael Begley.

Attending remotely: Cllr. PJ Ryan

Officials present in person : Jason Murphy Meetings Administrator, Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer and Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

Attending remotely: John Gannon Senior Executive Engineer.

Apologies: Liam Conneally, Director of Service

Cathaoirleach John Crowe opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 18th May, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.
2. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District held on 18th June, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
3. Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on 18th June, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Donna McGettigan and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
4. Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 for proposed Low Cost Safety Schemes at the following locations:
 - On the L3050 at Cloonlara National School, Cloonlara, Co. Clare.
Proposed by Cllr. Michael Begley and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.
 - Junction of R462 and R471 Ballyliddan, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare.
Proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all
 - On the R458 (260 meters West of Clonmoney National School), Clonmoney West, Co. Clare.
Proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
5. Declaration of Public Roads at Dun Rí PH2, Bunratty, Co. Clare – Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, (as amended).
Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.
6. Disposal of the area of ground to the rear of Sixmilebridge Credit Union – Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended).
Proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman and agreed by all.
7. Declaration of a Public Road for Cappa South, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare – Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 (as amended).
Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.
8. S183 Disposal of Property at Knocksaggart, Newmarket-on-Fergus - Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended).
Proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

9. **Economic Development**- Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer updated the Members as follows:
- The draft Shannon Town Master Plan (STMP) – is currently on public display up until 20th August to allow for public engagement, whereby submission and observations can be made during this time.
Various aspects of the plan were discussed including a proposal to develop a new public civic hub for Shannon Town Centre and how this building can best be utilised as a public building for all.
 - Outdoor Recreation Scheme application form has been submitted for Newmarket On Fergus.
 - An application form has been submitted under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 in respect of Drumgeely, Shannon and Clonlara.
 - Town and Village Renewal Scheme for Sixmilebridge and Bunratty are progressing. A contractor has been appointed in respect of Sixmilebridge.
 - A special meeting of Clare County Council took place on Wednesday 28th July which granted a 7 month extension to finalised the Development Plan following the introduction of new legislation that makes a provision for the disruption caused by the pandemic. The Planning Department will be engaging in further consultation in the coming months.
 - Planting project for the MD to commence in quarter 3 of 2021. Further engagement and detail in respect of same will be provided.
 - Students from the School of Architecture in UL are currently carrying out an analysis of the public realm in Sixmilebridge to facilitate future plans for Sixmilebridge.
 - Bus shelters have been upgraded in a number of locations in Shannon Town. Funding for this programme was provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
 - Shannon Town Park – Judging on the Green Flag award for the Town Park will take place this week.
 - The Shannon MD office also assisted and facilitated the holding of a theatrical event hosted by Muse Productions in Shannon Town Park from 18th to 20th June. This event was well organised by the production group and supported by the local community.

The Member raised the following:

- Cllr. Gerard Flynn expressed disappointment in relation to various proposals under the draft Shannon Town Masterplan and the process of engagement involved in same. He requested in-light of the extension of time granted for the new County Development Plan to allow for further engagement, that the consultation period for the Shannon Town Masterplan also be extended. This was supported by Cllr. Michael Begley.
Jason Murphy agreed to discuss this further with Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner and the Planning Department and he will revert to the Members in relation to this.
- Cllr. Gerard Flynn proposed that Brian O’Leary, Manager of Shannon Town Centre be invited to the next meeting of the Shannon MD. This was seconded by Cllr. Donna McGettigan.
- Cllr. Donna McGettigan also expressed concern in relation to aspects of the Shannon Town Masterplan. Cllr. McGettigan acknowledged the live outdoor performance events organised in Shannon and the new bus shelters.
- Cllr. John Crowe requested that the live outdoor performance events be publicised more in the various media outlets. While commending the new bus shelters he stated that he would like to see an upgrade of other bus shelters throughout the MD.
- Cllrs. Pat O’Gorman and Pat McMahon shared the view that the amenities in Shannon Town should not be compromised in the Shannon Town Masterplan.

- Cllr. Gerard Flynn proposed a vote of thanks to Brian O’Leary, Manager of Shannon Town Centre for erecting a big screen in the Town Centre showing coverage of the recent Hurling Championship. This was supported by the Members.

10. Roads works programme. – update by Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon

- Riverside walkway at Shannon Banks, which is funded under the NTA Active Travel measures, is now substantially complete.
- Design has commenced on further projects under the NTA Active Travel, including Ballycasey Close and Meelick.
- Upgrade to bus shelters at the Radisson Hotel and Westbury will be completed by September, 2021.
- Footpath Maintenance Contract tender which incorporates 3750 sq.m. of footpath upgrade is currently being assessed. It is intended that these works will commence in September.
- Surface dressing – Corrib Drive to be completed and Smithstown has now been added to these works.
- Overlay works- Preparatory works has been carried out by our own crew and the contractor is due to commence in the coming weeks.
- Hedgecutting – contractor is currently on the ground.
- Grass cutting – 10 out of 16 cuts have now been completed.
- Line marking in Shannon is complete and will now be moving to other towns in the district.
- Climate Action funding – a contractor has been appointed for the upgrade of the pump station at Westbury.
- Wall at entrance to Westbury estate has been stripped back to establish if it is structurally sound. A tender is out for the finished material. A contractor will also be appointed to paint the railings.
- Gleann Core, Newmarket On Fergus - traffic calming measures have now been completed.
- Newmarket On Fergus – works on the Church car park and the footpath from the Church to Avondale estate have been completed.
- Pedestrian crossing at Lidl have now had heads replaced.
- Town & Village Renewal Sixmilebridge – contractor has now been appointed. Works to commence in August with a 4 month build.
- Bike stands have been erected in Shannon, with more to be placed in Westbury and Cratloe in the next couple of weeks.

In response to the above the Members raised the following:

- Cllr. Michael Begley stated that the works on the wall at Westbury should be carried out within the budget in place.
- Cllr. Gerard Flynn stated that the pedestrian crossing at Bothar na Rinne needs improvement and could be improved by moving it towards the junction. He also raised concern over the effectiveness of surfacing dressing on concrete roads.
- Cllr. Pat O’Gorman requested that the feedback speed sign as you travel into Cratloe from the Setrights side be fixed.
- Cllr. PJ Ryan requested an update on the pedestrian crossing at Cratloe School. Tom Mellett replied that a full design needs to be carried out.
- Cllr. Ryan also requested an update on the “No Parking” signs for Coillte car park, Cratloe. Tom Mellett advised that the signs are on order but a timeframe for delivery of signs has not been provided by the suppliers.

At this stage of the meeting Cllr. PJ Ryan requested that his 3 motion (no.'s 14 to 16) be taken first. This was agreed by all the Members.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That this MD would carry out surface repairs and verge trimming to the L70281 Balllyroe Road, Sixmilebridge

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office will arrange for any necessary repairs to be carried out.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr.

That this MD would provide security gates with pedestrian styles on the entrance road to the Tradaree sewage treatment plant, Shannon.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This motion refers to L- 73481 or Slí na Mara Road. Introducing physical barriers would prevent access by motor vehicles to a public road. The road is used by members of the public, farmer's, Garden Allotment holders and staff of the Tradaree Wastewater Treatment plant. Restricting access to pedestrians would require a change in status to the road and leave a requirement on Clare County Council to provide an alternative means of access for other users.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That this MD would provide a footpath extension with lighting on the Sixmilebridge Castlecrine Road, as there is a couple of recent housing developments on this road and it is a safety issue.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

A contract to carry out works along this section of road has been awarded, the contractor commenced work on the 28th July. It will be funded through a number of sources including the General Municipal Allocation fund.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

I ask Clare County Council to repair and upgrade the road in Moohaun, Newmarket On Fergus, leading to the entrance of Paddy McCormack's house and farm due to heavy flooding at various times in the year.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This road will be assessed to determine what measures may be necessary. Following assessment, a determination will be made as to how to secure funding for works identified.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I ask Clare County Council to take over the road in the townland of Ballinacragga, Newmarket On Fergus, leading to the farms and households of the McCormack's, Fawls, Donlons, Freeman's, McMahon's, McNamara's, Marren's, Keane's etc. due to the extra usage of said road.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This road is off the R458 and is approximately 1200m in length. The condition of the road will be surveyed to assess suitability for a Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 declaration as a public road. If the road is not in a suitable condition the residents along the road will need to consider applying for the Local Improvement Scheme to bring the road to an acceptable condition.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I ask Clare County Council to repair the footpaths in Kilnasoolagh Park from no. 58 to no. 82 inclusive as there are parts in a dangerous condition.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Improvement works at this location have been included in the 2021 Footpath Remediation project.

Notice of Motion no.'s 14 to 16 from Cllr. PJ Ryan were dealt with earlier in the meeting.

17. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

I am requesting that MD would provide speed ramps - traffic calming measures at Sweeps road, Parteen leading to the junction with the R464 as there is a hidden entrance leading from Quinsborough house and to slow traffic approaching the junction.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

An Assessment of this road and its environs will be required. The Municipal District Office will refer the road to the Road Design Office for consideration.

18. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

That this MD would review the speed limit on Pass Road, Meelick, as the road is divided between Co Limerick 50Km and Co Clare 80Km. It would be desirable if a 50Km speed limit would be put in place.

John Gannon replied as follows:

A National Speed Limit Review is initiated every 5 years by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The last Speed Limit Review in Clare was completed in 2018.

The speed limit within County Clare at the Boundary between County Limerick and County Clare on the L-3104-10 known as the Pass Road, Meelick will be reviewed under the next National Speed Limit Review.

19. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That this MD would look at the possibility in light of the proposed N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme of integrating the green area that runs (N19) between the two roads from Tola park to the Drumgeely roundabout. With the view of removing the wild shrubbery and briers leaving the trees and also landscape making this area an amenity for walking and cycling.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

As this area bounds the N19 on one side we would need to discuss options with Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Any works would need to give primacy to the safety of road users and pedestrians alike. This office can raise the issue through the N19 Airport Road project.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I call on this MD to renew the markings around roundabouts, in particular the black and yellow markings at the Comprehensive School roundabout.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

These works will be included in the current works programme for our contractor. I am estimating completion of the current works list before the end of August

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I call on this MD to look at traffic calming measures to be placed on the Smithstown Road. Large trucks and cars use this busy road and sometimes drivers tend to drive fast.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Assessment of this section of public road will be required. The Municipal District Office will carry this out with the possibility of driver feedback signs being required, any works will be subject to suitable funding being identified.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I call on this MD if feasible to avail of funding for smart solar -compacting /composter / big belly bins for the graveyard and along the loop. An announcement was made from the Dept of Environment, Climate and Communication for funding around this.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Clare County Council operates a policy of 'Leave no Trace' whereby the public are encouraged to remove any waste they generate from public areas, introducing new bins to an area runs contrary to this policy.

The Municipal District has engaged with Shannon Tidy Towns and with a local social enterprise company to support an increase in litter picking frequency along the embankment walk and the Town in general.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am asking that the road sweeper come to Sixmilebridge once a week.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office currently has access to two sweepers, one is Council property in constant circulation within the M.D, while the other is hired-in primarily to support the Road Works Programme. Demand is understandably high for these units and any increase in frequency will need to be budgeted for.

The Municipal District Office has increased the frequency of public bin collections in Sixmilebridge with two to three (demand lead) collections per week.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

I am asking for a bollard to be erected between Ronan View and Ashview Drive housing estates as the entrance between these two estates is very wide and for the safety of residents with cars driving through the entrance.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

An initial assessment has indicated that placing a bollard at the footpath entrance on the Ashview approach to the footpath is feasible. The Municipal District Office will schedule this work.

This motion received the full support of the Members.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I am asking that there would be a footpath from the nursing home in Cratloe to join the footpath at the junction of the road. This path would help residents, staff and visitors to the nursing home and the general public who use the footpath up to the woods and the playground.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This proposal would bring a benefit to the residents and guests of the Nursing Home. The Municipal District Office will nominate this project for the next round of Active Travel funding. It should be noted that for the project to advance engagement with local landowners will be required.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am requesting the Senior Engineer as a matter of urgency to have the outstanding work on footpaths completed throughout Shannon, some are in need of repair and others replacement. A number of footpaths have been notified to the Council over a number of years and are now in a deplorable condition and a risk to health and safety.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The Office is currently assessing the responses to the Footpath Maintenance Contract Tender, which incorporates 3570sq.m of footpath upgrade. Footpath remediation works throughout Shannon town and the wider District have been included and will result in improved mobility for pedestrians throughout the District.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am calling on the Senior Engineer to have the Bus Shelter in Drumgeely replaced as a matter of urgency due to the appalling condition of the structure. A number of bus shelters in Shannon Town are in the process of enhancement and I would have expected that the one in Drumgeely should have been included as it is located in the older part of Shannon and is well used by the local residents who require shelter from the elements while waiting for public transport.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Work has commenced on upgrading this Bus Shelter along with a number of others throughout the town. Works are being carried out on behalf of National Transport Authority by their Contractor JCDecaux. This Office has been advised that works are expected to be completed by September.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am requesting the Senior Engineer to finish 2 green areas in Shannon. The Gort na Rí housing development in regards to the removal of fence posts, the reinstatement of the green area and cleaning of unsightly graffiti from the boundary wall. The other area is located on the Drumgeely road across from Dun an Óir and Gort Road, these areas had trees and shrubs removed and are in need of restoration work.

Tom Mellet replied as follows:

Following the removal of trees in 2020 the rear of the walls behind Gort na Ri were exposed and shown to be in an untidy manner. The Office will be engaging with the parties responsible for the wall to resolve this issue. The footpath has been repaired by the Municipal District Office with some regrading adjacent to the path taking place.

The remains of the concrete fence are on school property as is the green area surrounding them this Office will engage with the school on the issue.

The Area opposite Dun an Oir has been levelled and made good following the removal of the undergrowth to allow our contractor to maintain the grass verge.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

In view of the up-grade being carried out on the river bank walk/cycleway in Shannon Banks, that this MD would consider Roads Restoration and/or Surfacing Dressing as required throughout the estate but particularly along the bus route and also restoration of some sections of footpath particularly towards the front of the estate.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Approximately 300m of footpath has been upgraded in Shannonbanks during 2021. This will be followed by an overlay to improve the road surface later this year. The intention of the Municipal District office is to continue this level of work within the estate each year and will continue to include the Bus corridor as well as the front of the estate.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

That this MD would put in place a comprehensive programme to eradicate Giant Hogg Weed in the Clonlara, Mountcatherine, Gilloge general area to include both public and private land.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The District Office in co-operation with the Council’s Heritage Officer have received funding of €10,000 from the Dept. of Housing Local Government and Hertiage to advance an invasive species eradication programme in the South-East Clare Area focusing on the Blackwater River and Erinagh Canal. This funding will allow for treatment on both public and private property. To this end we have requested landownership details from the Land Registry Office. It is the District Offices intention to issue letters to each property owner next week.

In addition to this the Office has engaged a contractor to treat Giant Hogweed along the public road verges in the Clonlara/Parteen area. Two periods of treatment have taken place so far this year.

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I am asking this MD for an update on start of construction of Walkway/Cycleway from Gilloge to UL along the Errina/Plassey Canal.

Steve Lahiffe replied as follows:

Clare County Council is currently engaged in the design and construction of a walkway along the Errina canal from Gilloge to UL. Following a procurement process a contractor has been appointed to construct the scheme. However due to Covid 19 restrictions on non-essential works, the nesting season and other environmental issues related to the Special Area of Conservation the project has had to be delayed. In advance of work being allowed to resume a review of construction aspects and of screening requirements was undertaken to ensure that potential impacts on the immediate environment and the adjacent SAC are controlled and have no significant impact on the qualifying interests of the SAC. Clare County Council is consulting with all the relevant authorities including the National Parks and Wildlife Service to achieve this. An Appropriate Assessment is being carried out at present and consultation with the NPWS will determine the earliest construction start date. Clare County Council are committed to delivering this scheme as soon as possible while complying with our responsibilities under environmental legislation.

Cllr Begley expressed his disappointment that this project has not progressed while funding for same has been in place for a number of years.

32. AOB

- Cllr. Michael Begley raised concern about grass trimming at junctions during the nesting season. He stated that the safety of motorists and all road users should not be compromised.
- Cllr. Begley also requested an update on the public lighting re-fit programme.
- Tom Mellett responded in relation to the public lighting re-fit that this has not yet commenced in Clare but he will follow up with relevant section for an update in relation to this.
- Cllr. Pat O' Gorman also highlighted that verge trimming is important and voiced his concern about the poor visibility at the roundabout at Radisson Hotel.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____