

**Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the offices of the Municipal District at Mountshannon Road, Scariff.**

**In attendance:** Cllr. Joe Cooney  
Cllr. Pat Hayes  
Cllr. Michael Begley  
Cllr. Pat Burke  
Cllr. Tony O'Brien  
Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

**Officials:** Mr. Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Pat Henchy, Executive Engineer  
Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer

**Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.**

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. P. Burke and seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes.

The members acknowledged the work being undertaken in recent weeks on footpaths and road improvements and praised those involved.

**Item 2 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.**

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. P. Burke and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

The members noted that there was a requirement for an Annual Service Plan to be produced at Municipal District level. Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer advised that this was likely to come before the members in the new year.

**Item 3 Date for next meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

**Item 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.**

“That Clare County Council carry out improvement works at Foxes Cross, Kilkishen as you exit onto the Sixmilebridge/Broadford in the interest of safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney  
Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

**Hugh McGrath, Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“The junction of the L-3010 and L-3016 at Ballyvorgal North merits improvement in sightlines. This is an issue that can be readily addressed at a minor cost provided Clare County Council gets the co-operation and good faith of the relevant landowner.”

**Item 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.**

“That Clare County Council erect signage on the bad bend in Fermoy, Broadford on the R465 because there has been a number of accidents at this location.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney  
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“It is accepted that the bend at Fermoy is severe, however there is a substantial section of over 3km of the R465 between Kyle & Kyleglass where the alignment is very poor.

In order to properly address this concern a review over this full 3km. section is required which may or may not involve improved signage and/or other measures such as a speed limit review.”

**Item 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.**

“That Clare County Council carry out improvement works outside Johnny McNamara house on the O’Callaghan’s Mills, Kilkishen road as it is very dangerous.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney  
Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“It is accepted that the vertical profile at the indicated location of the L-3002 at Knockatoreen needs to be addressed. Provided budgets & resources allow we will endeavour to address this in the coming year.”

Cllr. J. Cooney requested that interim measures be considered in the short-term until road improvements could be carried out. He requested the Council to consider signage at this location and this request was supported by the members.

**Item 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley**

“That hedge cutting be carried out on the R471 from Harolds Cross to Truagh Church.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley  
Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“Hedge cutting will be carried out in this area shortly having regard to the Councils adopted Hedge cutting Policy.”

**Item 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley**

“That hedge cutting be carried out in the Aughboy stretch of the R463.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley  
Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“Hedge cutting will be carried out in this area shortly having regard to the Councils adopted Hedge cutting Policy.”

**Item 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.**

“That repairs be carried out on the last 300 metres (from Millane’s house to Fitzpatrick’s house) of the Cloontra East road.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley  
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“The L-30425 Cloontra East Road is a local tertiary cul-de-sac off the R471. While repairs will be considered within the resources available, local landowners will be advised to take the necessary measures as obliged to meet their responsibility under the Roads Act 1993 Sections 70 and 76 regarding their responsibilities in relation to maintenance of hedgerows\roadside verges and drainage impacting the public road.”

**Item 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Burke.**

"Calling on Clare County Council to engage with Waterways Ireland with a view to providing a new toilet/shower block at Mountshannon Harbour."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke  
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

**Gerard Dollard, Director of Service, Community, Enterprise, Planning and Tourism replied as follows:**

“The Members will be aware of the success of the Bird Viewing and Information Point at Mountshannon in 2014. It is the intention to build on the success of this initiative and on the wider tourism product in the local area including Holy Island. The Council recently met with the Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland and senior personnel to discuss the proposal to acquire Holy Island and also to examine ways in which the Council and Waterways Ireland could work collaboratively on initiatives. The management of the overall area at Mountshannon Pier was part of the discussions.

The adequacy of the public toilet facilities have been the subject of ongoing comment and the provisions of new facilities will be subject to funding sources being identified. The Council will continue to engage with Waterways Ireland to see if a scheme can be developed for submission as part of a future tourism product development scheme or other similar schemes that might materialise in the future.”

**Item 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Burke.**

"Calling on Clare County Council to give an update on discussions with Coillte/Private forestry owners as to the removal of roadside trees ahead of potential stormy weather."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke  
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“We have been liaising on an ongoing basis on this issue with Coillte and in particular over the past 9 months since the February 12<sup>th</sup> storms. Substantial progress has been made by Coillte and while there are some outstanding areas that need addressing we are satisfied following our most

recent communication last month that Coillte are fully briefed on our areas of concern and are committed to completing these remaining areas.”

The members highlighted the importance of completing the remaining areas as quickly as possible.

**Item 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Burke.**

"Calling on Clare County Council to include an overlay of the Main Street in Mountshannon in next years road works programme."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke  
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“This road is not in the current roadworks programme. It can be considered in the annual review having regard to other roadworks priorities and departmental grant criteria.”

**Item 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O’Brien.**

“That Clare County Council carry out repairs to footpaths in Killaloe.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien  
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“Extensive repairs and new footpath construction have been carried out in Killaloe over recent years and even in the past number of weeks. There is still a significant amount of repair work outstanding in many locations within the operational area of the Municipal District. Repair of these will be considered and prioritized along with any other repairs outstanding in Killaloe within the resources available.”

**Item 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O’Brien.**

“That Clare County Council take-in-charge in it’s entirety Riverdale Estate in Bridgetown.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien  
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

**Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, Planning & Enterprise Development replied as follows:**

“Riverdale Estate, O’Briensbridge was taken in charge on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2005, however the Waste Water Treatment Plant was not taken in charge and is managed and maintained by the developer.

In January 2014, Irish Water was established, however, it does not have a role in Taking in Charge of estates served by developer provided infrastructure i.e. stand alone waste water treatment plants, pumping stations etc. which were provided by developers as part of housing developments. The Department has undertaken a pilot study of estates with developer provided infrastructure throughout the Country and Clare has been selected as a pilot county for review of the type and condition of the infrastructure with a view to putting in place a strategy and appropriate funding model to address the deficiencies on these particular housing developments.

The Planning Authority will review the Taking in Charge documentation from 2005 pertaining to this development in conjunction with an assessment of the Planning File and the Waste Water Treatment Plant.”

**Item 15 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O’Brien.**

“That Clare County Council provide 2 pedestrian crossings in Scarriff (1) between the Finsa Factory and Dock Road/Riverview and (2) from the back entrance of the Church across to the National School.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“While it is accepted that there is merit in considering provision of pedestrian crossings near the Dock Road junction a detailed assessment of the warrant as well as consideration of the suitability of the location will need to be ascertained before a funding mechanism can be explored.

The basis for a pedestrian at the rear of the Church is less clear but can be examined also.

However, typically funding for such projects is not readily available other than under the already overstretched annual discretionary maintenance budget.”

**Item 16 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.**

“Ask Clare County Council to seek clarification from Irish water as to who is responsible for the upkeep of the road servicing the reservoir at Castlecrine, Sixmilebridge and are the land owners on which the pipes are on entitled to as before.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

**Sean Ward, Senior Engineer, Water Services Department replied as follows:**

“All water Services assets including reservoirs such as the one at Castlecrine (and water and wastewater treatment plants, pumping stations etc) are to be transferred by Ministerial order at a future date from Clare County Council to Irish Water.

Transfers in Clare are only in their very early stage at present. Until the transfer of this reservoir is being prepared, it is not possible to state definitively how much if any of the access road will be transferred to Irish Water and/or to what extent Irish Water will be responsible for maintenance of the approach road. Any legal transfer when executed will have to provide for existing legal entitlements of other owners or occupiers of lands with rights of ways, wayleaves etc.”

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan distributed a map of the area concerned which highlighted the specific problems of ownership on the approach road to the reservoir. Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, agreed to investigate what the requirements would be in order for a taking-in-charge request for this road to be prepared and he would advise Cllr. O’Callaghan accordingly.

**Item 17 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.**

“Ask Clare county council for an update on the flood issues at Ballycar Newmarket and what's the plan going forward.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan  
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“While some works were carried out on the maintenance of drainage channels in this area in 2014, completion of the proposed improvements to the public road in Ballycar are reliant on agreements being in place with landowners. Subject to this it is expect that the works will be complete in 2015.”

**Item 18 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.**

“Are Clare County Council going to read commercial water meters this year as issues are arising that some have not been read and may not be billed this year.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan  
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

**Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Water Services Department replied as follows:**

“As the non-domestic metering function is being carried out by Clare County Council, acting as an agent of Irish Water, all non-domestic meters will be read and billed as per normal for 2014. This is likely to continue into 2015 also as the transition plan for this function is not yet finalised by Irish Water.”

**Item 19 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.**

“I propose that the road from Baloughtra to Knockjames, Tulla be included in the 2015 roads programme as it is in a very poor condition at present.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes  
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“Currently it is proposed to carry out improvement works on the local secondary road L-8104 at Balloughtra from Derryulk to Kilmore in 2015. A review of all roads proposed for the 2015 programme will be undertaken early in 2015.”

**Item 20 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.**

“I propose that the road from Gurrane, Feakle to Coolagory be included in the 2015 roads programme as sections of this are in a very poor condition.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes  
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“The L-80381 is a local tertiary road off the R461 Feakle-Scarriff road. It serves the townlands of Garraun, Kildavin and Coolagory. Funding for upgrading tertiary roads such as this was granted under the Community Involvement Scheme operated in 2013 and 2014. A valid application was not received for this road in this period. While we continue to maintain the road within the limited resources available it is currently not proposed to upgrade this road in the 2015 roadworks programme.”

**Item 21 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.**

“I am asking for an update into the number of outdoor workers in total in the expanded Killaloe Electoral area and also the total mileage to be maintained in this district.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes  
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

**Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“Current staffing numbers are as follows

30 No. Outdoor workers including Supervisors, Foremen and General Operatives

This number excludes:

2 No. Truck Drivers  
1 No. Suction Sweeper (60%)  
1 No. Velocity Patcher Driver (60%)  
JCB Contractors etc.

The Killaloe Municipal District contains 1342km. or 839 miles (up from 1,027km., and total road length in Clare is 4,268km.).”

The members welcomed this report and requested that the embargo be lifted to enable the Council to recruit additional employees so that they could continue to maintain the roads to a high standard.

**Item 22. Any Other Business.**

(a) Appointment of two nominees to review the CEDRA Report.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Hayes and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney it was proposed that Cllr. T. O’Brien be nominated to the Clare County Council Working Group on the commission for Economic Development of Rural Areas (Cedra) Report and its implementation.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Burke and seconded by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan it was proposed that Cllr. J. Cooney be nominated to the Clare County Council Working Group on the commission for Economic Development of Rural Areas (Cedra) Report and its implementation.

(b) It was agreed that the Gardai would be invited to attend the next meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2015.

(c) Cllr. P. Hayes complemented the work being undertaken at the Flaggy Shore and requested if passing bays could be provided.

(d) The members requested information on proposals to change the staffing arrangements for those employed with Irish Water. Hugh McGrath advised that this did not come under his area but he was aware that changes were being considered, with the possibility that employees would no longer be involved in the maintenance of both water and wastewater facilities but would be more specialised in one area.

(e) Cllr. M. Begley advised the members that he received a request from Killaloe, Ontario in Canada to consider a twinning arrangement. This proposal was referred to the next meeting of the Twinning Committee.

(f) Hugh McGrath notified the members of upcoming road closures in the area. The members sought the support of the public while these important works were underway.

The meeting then concluded.

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**Kieran O'Donnell**  
**Meetings Administrator**

**20<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.**