

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District held on Wednesday, 25th November, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. in Party Room (Room 245) Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

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

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 23rd September, 2015.

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 23rd September, 2015 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan.

Item 2 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 28th October, 2015.

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 28th October, 2015 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes.

Item 3 Attendance of Coillte representatives.

Paul Ruane, Regional Manager for Coillte in Clare and Galway and Mark O'Loughlin, Forest Manager for Coillte in Clare attended for this item. The Chairperson Cllr. M. Begley welcomed both to the meeting. He advised that the members had decided at their recent meeting to invite them as it was important that there was a good working relationship between the Council and Coillte as they have a substantial land bank in the county. The members acknowledged the significant work carried out by Coillte during 2015 in removing trees adjacent to roads and in carrying out hedge cutting on their property.

They also identified a number of areas where improvements were required including

- the Tulla-Gort road, where there were overhanging trees
- the Cloontra area where there was significant damage to the roads due to the weight of the timber being removed
- general need to communicate to residents in an area to advise them of work ongoing and the duration of same.
- the road between Ruan National School and Kells National School.
- a number of minor roads in the region where no hedge cutting had ever taken place
- the Belvoir area of Sixmilebridge

In return, Paul Ruane and Mark O'Loughlin thanked the members for inviting them to the meeting. They advised that Coillte were committed to working with communities as this was the best approach. They stated that they had carried out 50km. of hedge cutting in the county and had removed a significant number of trees where risks had been identified. They outlined that trees along the roadway provided shelter for the plantation and also bio-diversity features and should only be removed, when necessary. Coillte have 50% of the forestry in the county. They requested assistance from the Council in dealing with two growing issues namely the presence of Japanese Knotweed and the problem of illegal dumping. They advised that Coillte were currently spending €2,500 per month in removing illegal dumping

H. Mc Grath, S.E.E., thanked the Coillte representatives for attending. He requested Coillte to advise his office in advance in relation to works being undertaken on hedgecutting and haulage. He outlined that the Council were three years into an eradication programme on Japanese Knotweed and he also advised Coillte to continue to work with the Council's Environment Section in relation to illegal dumping. Pat Henchy, E.E., stated that trees overhanging on regional roads were still a problem in a number of locations. There were a number of roads that had been significantly damaged due to the haulage of timber and that a source of funding was required to bring these roads back to an acceptable standard.

It was agreed that contact details for Coillte representatives in the region would be forwarded to the Meetings Administrator for forwarding to the Elected Members.

Item 4 Presentation from P. McElwee, Head of L.E.O.

Padraic McElwee, Head of L.E.O. Clare attended for this item and gave an outline of the role of the Local Enterprise Office in Clare. He stated that the Office provides financial supports, mentoring and business advisory services and training for its clients along with promoting an enterprise culture within the county. Financial supports were available in the form of Priming Grants, Feasability/Innovation Grants and Business Expansion Grants. The office provides training and mentoring in order to support businesses with an identified problem or opportunity. Areas where training is provided include Start Your Own Business, Management Development, Food Safety, Social Media and Search Engine Optimisation. Mentoring is offered in areas including Financial, Marketing, Sales and Social Media.

He advised the members that there had been a 25% increase year on year growth in net jobs assisted through L.E.O. Clare in 2015. There were 17 enterprises grant aided and in total, €94,000 in grants had been approved. In addition, 72 enterprises had received mentoring and there were 355 participants at training courses organised by the L.E.O. Office.

The members thanked Padraic for his presentation and looked forward to working closely with him in the future.

Item 5 Fix date for next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on the 20th January, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

Item 6 Nomination of one elected member to Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney and agreed by the members that Cllr. P. Burke would be nominated to the Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

Item 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

“That Clare County Council take in charge (a) Ballyvally Estate (b) Radharc na Heaglaise Estate (c) Knockyclovaun Road all in Killaloe.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Having regard to the requests for taking in charge of estates (a) & (b), for these developments to be considered for taking in charge an application must be made to the Planning Authority, under the relevant policy (Pre or post 2008 developments).

In regard to (c) Knockyclovan road, an application has been received from residents requesting that this road be taken in charge. Consideration for this request, under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, can be given subject to the mandatory public consultation process being complete. An ‘Engineers Report’ must then be prepared by the district engineer and presented to the elected members of the Killaloe Municipal District for their consideration, having regard for the recently adopted policy on taking in charge of private roads.”

Following a discussion, H. McGrath, S.E.E., agreed to check if this notice of motion could be taken as the formal application or if there was a need for Cllr. T. O'Brien to submit an application formally to the Planning Department.

Item 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

“That traffic calming measures be put in place at cross roads Killaloe between the new estate and the old cross roads.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Killaloe Town Traffic Management is to be reviewed in the near future. Consideration for this proposal can be addressed in this context.”

Item 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O’Brien.

“That remedial and repair work be carried out on the lane between New Street, Killaloe and St. Luas Villas, Killaloe.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“This lane is part of the L7088. Consideration will be given to provide funding to carry out repairs at the next opportunity.”

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

"Calling on Clare County Council to carry out major repair works on main street Mountshannon. These works to include drainage, footpath improvements and overlay/blacktop of the main street."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Consideration will be given to including the works referred to on the R352 for consideration in the next multi-annual review of the Roads Programme.”

H. McGrath, S.E.E., advised the members to submit a list of roads that they felt required consideration under the Roadworks Programme and that he would consider same.

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

"Calling on Clare County Council to include the L-4038 which goes from the Post office to Hayes's cross in Whitegate for surface dressing in next year's roadworks programme.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Consideration will be given to including the works referred to on the R352 in the next multi-annual Roadworks Programme.”

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to ensure that hedge cutting is carried out as a matter of urgency from Ruan national school to Kells Cross.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Responsibility for this work on the L4150 is the responsibility of the Landowners and/or occupiers under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993. We will ensure notifications are issued via the appropriate channels where it is evident that such obligations are not being met.”

Item 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.

“I propose that improvement works be carried out on the road leading from national school to community centre in Crusheen, 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:

“The road referred to, the L8128, is a local secondary cul-de-sac serving the school and some residential housing. Consideration will be given to seeking funding to address these improvements in the near future.”

It was agreed that Items No. 14 and 16 would be taken together.

Item 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.

“I am asking that a plan of improvement works be carried out on our minor roads, as at present very little work in lines of maintenance and drainage are being carried out on these roads and

they need immediate attention.”

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

Item 16 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council outline their plans for the maintenance and upgrade of local and minor roads in the Killaloe Municipal district.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Due to the limited resources available we are restricted in our ability to address such issues other than those that we deem as being extremely urgent. Therefore, our priority with such limited resources is concentrated on the non-minor roads, other than intermittent patching or urgent works. Drainage issues on minor roads can often be addressed by the landowners and occupiers in accordance with their responsibilities under the Roads Act 1993 – Section 76. Basic drainage maintenance works of the type not requiring a road opening licence from the Roads Authority can generally be applied to address a significant number of drainage maintenance issues. Where this is not the case or where doubt exists our Engineering staff can offer appropriate advice through the Municipal District Office.

Proposals for upgrading works on local and minor roads will be outlined in a draft schedule of works for the Killaloe Municipal District in 2016.”

Item 15 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.

“I am asking that this Council immediately seek funding for an arterial drainage programme to alleviate the constant flooding problems in many areas of the Killaloe electoral district.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Consideration will be given to consider funding proposals for such works in the upcoming Municipal District Schedule of Works for 2016. Any such funding is currently allocated from the limited discretionary budget.”

Item 17 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council upgrade the section of road between Broadford and O’Callaghan’s Mills at Doon as it is in bad condition and very dangerous.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Consideration will be given to carrying out remedial maintenance works if necessary at this location.”

Item 18 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council upgrade and put signage at the bad bend at Clonbrick on the Kilkishen, Sixmilebridge road.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We are currently engaging with landowners with a view to carrying out safety improvements at this location.”

Item 19 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Request Clare County Council to carry out works on the l3020 road (Walton lodge road) as it is flooding on a regular basis.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We will review the drainage issues here having regard to the impact of development and compliance or otherwise of landowners and/or occupiers in fulfilling their obligations under Planning conditions as well as Section 76 of the Roads Act 1993.”

Item 20 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“I request Clare County Council to carry out works on the Ballysheen graveyard road at one point where the O’Garney River is very close to the road.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The road referred to the L7024 is a local secondary road connects R462 and the R470. Maintenance of all such roads is based on a prioritized hierarchy having regard to the available resources, category and status of the road and its extent of use, and the urgency of such repairs.”

Item 21 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan.

“I request Clare County Council to improve road marking at Kilmurry Cross especially by the Church as it is a very wide area with no marking.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“There is merit in reviewing the markings at this area in particular to enhance safety. We will undertake this review in the near future.”

As it was now 1:30 p.m. it was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney, seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes and agreed by the members to extend the meeting in order to deal with the remaining items on the Agenda.

Item 22 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That a programme for opening outlets be put in place as soon as possible.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“As is normal this time of year we are currently carrying out winter preventative and reactive maintenance to address drainage issues. Due to the limited resources available and having regard for the necessary requirements we are obliged to meet, the extent and expediency of this works is not what we would wish for.”

Item 23 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That repairs be carried out on the link road at Truagh Church between the R471 and the R465.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The road referred to the L3048 is a local primary road that effectively operates as an alternative link connecting the two regional roads referred to, bypassing Carmody’s Cross. Maintenance of all such roads is based on a prioritized hierarchy having regard to the available resources, category and status of the road and its extent of use, and the urgency of such repairs.”

Item 24 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That steps be taken to ensure that the “no parking zone” at Gillogue is observed.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Following implementation of bye-laws to effect the Garraun Traffic Management Plan, signage has been erected to support the traffic management plan. In the coming week additional information signage is to be erected to provide detailed on-site information on the extent to which the plan is operational. Details can also be viewed at the Municipal District Office in Scarriff. The bye-laws effectively prohibit parking on any part of the Garraun road as well as on the section of the Gillogue Road from the former Burlington Plant to the junction with the Garraun road. Motorists parking in this area will be guilty of an offence and An Garda Siochana should be notified if adherence to these bye-laws is not being observed.”

Item 25 Any other business.

- Cllr. T. O’Brien advised the members that Shannon Heritage had closed the tourist office in Killaloe. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to them and request details of their plans for next year.
- A vote of sympathy was extended to Kieran O’Donnell on the death of his sister-in-law Dympna O’Sullivan.
- As this was the final scheduled meeting for 2015, the Chairperson Cllr. M. Begley thanked everybody for their co-operation during the year.

Kieran O’Donnell
Meetings Administrator

28th November, 2015.