

**Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District held on Wednesday, 18th May, 2016
at 3.00 p.m. in the offices of the Municipal District at Mountshannon Road, Scariff.**

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

Officials: Ms. Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer.
Mr. Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer.
Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer.

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 9th March, 2016.

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 9th March, 2016 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan.

H. McGrath advised the members that he expected works to commence at Kilbane Junction later this year. He also advised that drawings were being prepared for Nash's Cross, Kilkishen but that no solution has been reached for the Mount Catherine Junction.

H. McGrath informed the members that no response has been received to date to the Council's second submission for funding under the Flood Damage Remediation Programme 2016.

Item 2 Date for next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on the 20th July, 2016 at 3.00 p.m.

Item 3 Fix date for A.G.M.

It was agreed that the A.G.M. will take place on the 27th June, 2016 at 2.00 p.m. in Conference Room 316, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis.

Item 4 Draft Six Year Strategic Plan – Annual Work Plan for J.P.C.

The members noted the correspondence circulated with the Agenda advising that the J.P.C. were required to create a six year strategic plan linked to the relevant objectives in the Local Economic and Community Plan for County Clare. In addition, an annual work plan was also required which must include objectives from the Garda Annual Policing Plan. Submissions were invited on both plans and they can be submitted to Geraldine Corbett by 31 May, 2016.

Item 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Request Clare County Council to address the Craggaunowen Junction off the R469 as it is impossible for buses to turn left from the Quin side.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“It is accepted that a bus will have difficulty in making the turn referred to. Provided the lands necessary for such improvements are provided we can then examine a means of funding for such a proposal.”

The members noted the importance of all the tourist attractions in the Municipal District area to the region and requested that the Council would support these attractions by carrying out maintenance and improvement works, where possible.

Item 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Request Clare County Council to address the issue of overnight camping outside Ballysheen Graveyard which causes huge problems when it occurs.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Once the extent of this issue is determined we will examine the options necessary.”

Item 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Request Clare County Council as a matter of urgency to address the dangerous bumps on the road opposite Kilkishen hurling field, in front of the bog walk where a bad accident happened recently.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The road referred to (L-3016) is the Kilkishen-Ballvorgal road. There are a significant number of such bog roads in the Killaloe Municipal District that are vulnerable over a period of time and are also impacted by extreme changes in weather patterns (from wet to dry). This results in changes in the vertical profile that can occur over a short period of time. We do not have the resources to carry out immediate improvement works on every ‘bog road’ that is impacted like this. Drivers should drive all roads in accordance with the driving conditions. We will endeavour to carry out repairs and/or improvements in accordance with the resources available to us.”

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

“That Clare County Council appoint a full time worker to maintain and look after Ballycuggeran Amenity Park during the summer months of June, July and August.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Begley

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We are seeking approval for such a request.”

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

“That assistance and support be given to O’Briensbridge village with street cleaning and village maintenance.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Begley

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Unfortunately, due to the restricted staff and resources available to Clare County Council we are limited in the extent of assistance we are able to provide for anything other than road maintenance and street cleaning. In this regard we regularly deploy a suction sweeper to O’Briensbridge and have carried out street repairs as recently as the last few weeks in this village.

As always we are more than happy to assist any pro-active voluntary groups such as tidy towns groups etc and can advise such groups as to the extent of our assistance once they make contact with our Municipal District Area Office in Scarriff.”

Item 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O’Brien.

“That Clare County Council take in charge Radharc na Heaglaise, Ballyvalley Estate and Knockyclovaun lane all in Killaloe.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Begley

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Applications for these estates should be directed through the Planning Authority.

I can however, confirm that an application for taking charge of the road at Knockyclovaun is under consideration for recommendation to be taken in charge, and a report in this regard will need to be submitted to the elected members for their consideration.”

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to provide new speed limit signs to the rear of the “Half Barrel” in Whitegate as the poles have disintegrated.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“This will be arranged at the next opportunity.”

In addition, H. McGrath requested that the members would contact the office with details of other damaged signs in their area.

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to encourage the “Christian Community” in Drewsborough, Tuamgraney to remove the evergreen trees from their property.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Landowners and/or occupiers have a responsibility under Section 70 of the Road Act 1993 to

‘to take all reasonable care to ensure that the trees, hedges and other vegetation growing on their lands are not or could not become a danger to people using or working on the public road.’

If the trees referred to adjoining the R352 in Tuamgraney are posing such a danger the landowner and/or occupier should take the appropriate action. Where the Roads Authority

becomes concerned for public safety we may from time to time remind such landowner and/or occupier accordingly in writing of their responsibilities.”

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to widen and make safe the footpath on the corner known locally as “JJ Buglers corner” in the centre of Scariff.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“There is merit in this motion and we will look at addressing the matter at the next available opportunity.”

It was proposed and agreed that the members would review the one-way system and current parking arrangements in Scariff at the July meeting.

Item 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That the Council endeavour to make a road maintenance arrangement with private forestry owners, similar to that made with Coillte.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“There is merit in this motion. We will look at progressing such a protocol either at county level or more likely at national level. In the interim we will continue to maintain regular dialogue with the forestry industry to ensure that the best measures possible are taken to protect the road network.”

It was proposed that a bond should be put in place as part of the planning application process to protect the roads infrastructure from possible future damage.

Item 15 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That hedge cutting be carried out on two short stretches of the R471

- a. At Dromintobin, Clonlara for approx. 200m.
- b. From Carmody’s Cross to Truagh Church (previous motion submitted on this).”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Where landowners and/or occupiers do not or can't address their responsibilities under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, we will carrying our hedgecutting on roads such as this within the scope of the Clare County Council Hedgecutting Policy as adopted in 2011.”

Item 16 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That resurfacing of a section of the Kilkeedy Road, Tubber be included in the programme for flood damaged roads (it was an alternative road used during flooding of the R460).”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“It is accepted that there are sections of this road, the Templebannagh-Rockforest road, (L-5006) that are in a poor state. It is also accepted that it was used as an alternative route during the recent flooding.

Provided we are satisfied that all reasonable measures have been taken by landowners and/or occupiers under Section 76 of the Roads Act 1993 to prevent damage being caused to the public road from drainage and/or agricultural activity we will look include this road for consideration in future road improvements applications. For the present we will continue to carry out repairs in accordance with our available resources & having regard to all priorities.”

H. McGrath agreed to consider carrying out works at this location using funding received from the Flood Damage Remediation Programme 2016.

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

“That Clare County Council improve the site lines on the Tubber/Boston road at the junction that exit from the GAA grounds.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Provided any necessary lands required are provided we will look favourably at progressing any proposal that improves the safety at this junction.”

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

“That Clare County Council put traffic calming measures in Tubber village near the national school in the interest of road safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“A 50 kph speed limit is in place at this location. There are also School Warning Lights at the approaches to the school.

The majority of traffic using this road during school collection & drop times are parents, guardians & teachers of school pupils. There is a role for the school Board of Management & Parents association in ensuring that concerns relating to speed are relayed to this group.

In any event any suspected breaches of the speed limit or illegal driving behaviour should be reported to An Garda Siochana.”

Item 19 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council carry out footpaths improvement works and traffic calming on the Clonlea road in Kilkishen near the National School in the interest of road safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“A 50 kph speed limit is in place at this location on the L-7008. There are also School Warning Lights. The majority of traffic using this road during school collection & drop times are parents, guardians & teachers of school pupils. There is a role for the school Board of Management & Parents association in ensuring that concerns relating to speed are relayed to this group.

Any breaches of the speed limit or illegal driving behaviour should be reported to An Garda Siochana.”

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

“I am asking that a full time litter and environmental officer be appointed to the Killaloe electoral area as at present a shared officer is in place. With the increasing amount of illegal dumping it is important that this matter be dealt with as a matter of urgency.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“This matter is currently being addressed by Clare County Council management and we are hopeful of a positive outcome.”

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

“I am asking that funding be sought for the upgrading and reopening of sections of the East Clare Way and a similar scheme as that is in place in North Clare be put in place.”

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

Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Tourism, Community & Development replied as follows:

“Recent correspondence to the Council from Clare Walks Limited outlined their role with regard to the maintenance and operation of the East Clare Way and the Mid Clare Way and requested financial support from the Council. While it is acknowledged that walking is a popular and growing activity, the maintenance of such routes is usually undertaken locally supported by a range of schemes provided by state agencies.

The Council will discuss the matter further with Clare Walks Ltd with a view to assessing the overall situation and will provide an update on same.”

Item 22 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.

“I am asking this Council to try and seek a solution to the ongoing flooding problem at Cloneen, Crusheen and also to repair the damaged roads.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The road referred to the L8156 connects Crusheen with Dromore.

We have recently made an application for funding to address such public roads damaged during the recent flooding. Subject to these funds being approved we hope to carry out improvements to the public road in this area. In any event maintenance repairs will be carried out at the next opportunity on this road.”

Item 23 Any Other Business.

- H. McGrath advised the members that he had not yet received the Hydrologist’s report on flooding on the N67.
- Members raised their concern about the lack of progress on finding a solution for flooding at Ballycar.
- The members noted the recent High Court decision in respect of the proposed new bridge crossing at Killaloe and urged objectors to work with the Council in advancing the project.
- C. Greene, Senior Executive Officer informed the members that Expressions of Interest have been invited for the letting of a newly refurbished shop unit at the recreational area at Ballycuggeran, Killaloe for the period 1st June, 2016 to 31st October, 2016.
- The members wished Inspector John O’Sullivan a happy retirement and noted the positive contribution he had made to the region.

The meeting then concluded.

Kieran O’Donnell
Meetings Administrator

24th May, 2016.