

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District held on Wednesday, 20th September, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the offices of the Municipal District at Mountshannon Road, Scarriff.

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

Officials: Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service
Mr. Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 20th July, 2017.

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 20th July, 2017 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. M. Begley and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

Item 2 Fix date for next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on the 15th November, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Item 3 Fix date for budget meeting.

It was agreed that the budget meeting will take place on the 23rd October, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Killaloe Municipal District Office, Scarriff, Co. Clare.

Item 4 Community Facilities Scheme 2017.

Report dated 5th September, 2017 from Monica Meehan, Chief Officer, LCDC was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Communities Facilities Scheme 2017 is an initiative of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. It is focused on providing small-scale capital grants to community groups

for the purpose of enhancing communities, addressing disadvantage and improving social cohesion at a local level. Details of the scheme were also circulated. The report also explained the role of LCDC and the role of the Municipal District in relation to the scheme. The report outlined the schemes in the Killaloe Municipal District area that were successful in their application to receive funding in 2017.

The report as circulated was noted by the members present having been proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

Item 5 Update on Japanese Knotweed.

Report dated 20th September, 2017 from Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer was circulated at the meeting. The report states that Clare County Council has a responsibility to address Invasive Species including Japanese Knotweed within the public road network. In an effort to address the areas within our responsibility the Council embarked on an eradication programme over the past number of years initially commencing in the Killaloe Municipal District.

All management and reporting (including mapping) of sightings of Invasive Species whether in private responsibility or on the public road is carried out through and maintained by the National Biodiversity Data Centre who can be contacted at **051-306240** or email invasives@biodiversityireland.ie.

In conjunction with recent workshops facilitated by Clare County Council an information leaflet was produced providing advice to the public in this regard. A copy of this leaflet was also circulated together with a sample screenshot of typical records stored by the Data Centre.

The members acknowledged the work that was being carried out by the Killaloe Municipal District in this area. They also expressed their concern at the high cost of the treatment of the outbreaks and the effect that this high cost could have on private land owners treating outbreaks within their lands. The need to make grant funding available to assist private land owners was highlighted.

Item 6 Approval of Programme of Works from GMA funding.

The following Programme of Works was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney, seconded by Cllr. M. Begley and agreed by all present:-

Project	Cost
Junction Improvements	€38,967
Tuamgraney Tourism Study	€18,000
Tuamgraney Callahy amenity path	€10,000
East Clare Walks	€6,000
Mountshannon Public Lights	€30,000
Whitegate Public Lights	€3,467

Amenity Areas Furniture	€5,000
L-80161 Knocknageeha	€20,000
O'Callaghans Mills Paths & Parking	€15,917
Millstream Square	€15,000
Community Text Alert System	€1,500
DFDS Kilkishen\Kilmurry	€14,000
12 O Clock Hills Signage	€750
Ballyminogue Path, Scarriff	€1,300
Killaloe Ballina Playground (RC)	€5,500
Dun An Oir, Clonlea	€10,500
Plunkett Drive Footpaths	€15,000
Kilmurry Tidy Towns	€2,000
Tree Limbing	€4,467
Pilot Traffic Calming measures Housing Estates	€8,467
Crusheen GAA access road	€10,000
Doorus OCM Road (SS)	€3,500
Killaloe Pedestrian & Safety Facilities	€18,467
Allocation	€257,800

Item 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Burke.

"Calling on Clare County Council to carry out drainage works on the local road adjacent to the 'Half Barrel' in Whitegate as there is an issue with ponding."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke
Seconded by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

"Having reviewed this issue, it is expected that a resolution can be achieved provided that the necessary landowner agreements can be put in place in relation to drainage discharge."

Item 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Burke.

"Calling on Clare County Council to give an update on the proposed upgrade works to the Main Street in Mountshannon."

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“In early 2017 we carried out significant drainage improvements and preparatory works to facilitate an upgrade of the Main Street in Mountshannon.

Following positive local input in relation to the project and as a result of new potential funding becoming available a review of the project was carried out.

Following this review it was decided that in order to ensure continuation of the project we would provide additional time to other service providers to consider their requirements to facilitate, relocate or repair existing services before we completed this project. Therefore prior to completion of all surfacing at this location this project would now be completed in 2018.”

Item 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Burke and Cllr. M. Begley.

"Calling on Clare County Council to provide a continuous white line on the regional road at Roo East, Ardnacrusha."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke and M. Begley
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Installation of centreline road markings have to comply with the requirements of the Department of Transport’s Traffic Signs Manual (2010).

While there are a number of criteria which must be considered for a continuous white line to be installed on a road centreline, in locations where sufficient road width is not available a continuous white line centreline should not be provided.”

Item 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That a short section of the parapet of Gillogue bridge (over drain on east side of Old Canal) be widened to allow agricultural machinery to pass through.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“It is accepted that there is merit in this proposal to facilitate large vehicles albeit that this local road is not well suited to such large vehicles.

In order to progress any solution a mechanism for carrying out the works with the co-operation of the benefitting community will need to be agreed, in addition to a funding mechanism.”

Item 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Begley.

“That the L-7070 and L-70662 which was the local alternative route during the closure of Cloontra East bridge be repaired.”

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Begley

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The bridge repair works which resulted in the closure of the R471 to through traffic over the past number of weeks are now substantially complete.

It is anticipated that the R471 will re-open to ‘through traffic’ by the end of this week Friday, 22nd September. Details will be publicised in this regard.

Once this road is re-opened we will assess the condition of any local roads that may have incurred exceptional damage, albeit that funding for works other than necessary maintenance is not available.

Our advice throughout the R471 road closures has been to direct motorists to take alternative routes using the Regional and National road network via Broadford or Limerick.”

Item 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council carry out works at Moynoe cross L8062 where it exits onto the Scarriff Mountshannon road to improve the site line on the Scarriff side in the interest of road safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Where improvements can be made within the ‘public road’ and/or where landowners are willing to facilitate any necessary set-back required we would look favourably on any such proposals in particular where it results in improved safety on this road network.”

Item 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“That Clare County Council give an update on the works and car park in the town of Scarriff.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Scarriff Main Street (TVR)”

Clare County Council received grant funding under the 2016 Town & Village Renewal scheme. This grant will be fully expended by the end of September as agreed following consultation with the local community. Works to date have been primarily focussed on providing underground services to facilitate removal of overhead electricity cables and poles, and provision of new public lighting. The next stage of the project will depend on the level of funding being available to upgrade the streetscape and footways.

Scarriff Car Park

Consideration is currently being given to the provision of off-street parking for Scarriff.

Following an initial proposal by the Community Council we are examining options related to the proposal and provided the viability of such a proposal can be demonstrated and an economic basis justified we will be happy to progress such an initiative.”

Item 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Cooney.

“When do Clare County Council hope to carry out improvement works at Cragroo cross on the Tulla Feakle road.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Where improvements can be made within the ‘public road’ and/or where landowners are willing to facilitate any necessary set-back required we would look favourably on any such proposals in particular where it results in improved safety on this road network.”

Item 15 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

“Request Clare County Council to address the regular flooding on the R462 at Sorreny.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The flooding issue at this location has been addressed in the past week, and a review of long-term maintenance issues of the drainage infrastructure at this location is to be undertaken.”

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

“Request this Council to put up a sign highlighting dangerous pole on the R462 Sixmilebridge side of the Castle in Kilmurry.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“In locations where safety concerns exist in regard to poles this concern should generally be addressed directly with the service provider and/or the adjoining property owner where the responsibility relates to potential planning compliance issues.

Where issues relating to road edge definition need to be addressed to highlight or delineate the road in relation to a roadside hazard not the responsibility of another service provider or 3rd party we will consider taking measures to carry out such improvements deemed necessary and in our area of responsibility.”

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

“As we are facing into winter months I would like to ask this Council for an update on Ballycar flooding.”

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“Localised maintenance works will be carried out on the drainage network in this area in the coming weeks.

Furthermore, thanks to the recent grant aided improvements carried out on the local road in this area (L-7150 Ballycar) by Clare County Council significant improvements have been made to facilitate property access via the local road network for local residents in the Ballycar area in the event of a flood event similar to that in recent years.”

It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to Iarnród Éireann and the O.P.W. and request an update on the progress made on the works required.

Item 18 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

“That a storm water channel be installed in Bridgetown opposite the Riverdale housing estate.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“We will review this location with a view to addressing any issues needing to be addressed and within our control at the earliest opportunity provided resources permit.”

Item 19 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

“That a footpath be installed between crossroads and the funeral home in Killaloe with a pedestrian crossing for the boys N.S.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Begley

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“There is merit in this proposal and it is intended to address this at the next opportunity in conjunction with a review of Traffic Management in Killaloe, provided funding is available.”

Item 20 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

“That an update be given on the progress of the new bridge crossing and bypass in Killaloe.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer replied as follows:

“The protracted Judicial Review and subsequent appeals concluded in November, 2016 with confirmation of final approval for the project. Notices to Treat were served on affected landowners in Aug 2016 and the submissions received in response to same have been examined. Liaison is presently taking place with some property owners but is at an early stage – notwithstanding the fact that some compensation offers have been made. An allocation of €500,000 is included in the 2017 Schedule of Road Grants to facilitate this and, in the event that

compensation agreements in excess of this are signed off this year, we are hopeful that the Department of Transport would be in a position to top up this figure. The Department remains very much committed to the project and Clare County Council is anxious to proceed to detailed design and tender (pending availability of funding) as soon as possible. In this regard, a procurement process is about to get underway to facilitate the appointment of consultants to manage the outstanding stages of the project.”

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

“I am asking for a full updated report into the proposed works at Mortyclough on the N67 to find a solution for the ongoing flooding problems at this area and a time scale to complete these works.”

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

Steve Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“A feasibility study has been carried out with a recommended solution for this issue involving discharge of floodwater from the flood zone impacting the N67 at Mortyclough.

Consultants were appointed by Clare County Council in 2017 to progress this solution through the planning stages and to provide a final detailed design.

The timescale for completion of the works is dependent on the expediency of the planning stage as well as the availability of funding for the recommended solution.”

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

“I am asking that improvement works be carried out at the junction near New Quay national school on the N67 as traffic travelling towards Ballyvaughan are finding it difficult to make a safe right turn. Also, signage at this junction needs to be relocated to improve sight lines. “

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

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“It is accepted that sightlines could be improved at the L-1022 Finavarra junction with the N67. Where existing signage is an issue this can be addressed.

Where extensive sightline improvements are required and where landowners are willing to facilitate the necessary set-back required we would look favourably on any such proposals in particular where it results in improved safety on this road network, subject to the approval and funding of such a project by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (T.I.I.).”

Item 23 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Hayes.

“I propose that extra funding be sought in the upcoming roads budget to deal with continued problems with our secondary and local roads in the Killaloe district. These roads have become the poor relations and now need immediate attention.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Hugh McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“In preparing the schedule of Municipal District Works for approval by the Council we have to consider all categories of roads. This assessment must have regard to a number of considerations including road condition rating, traffic volumes, and value for money.

However, it is accepted that in prioritizing works for roads in need of upgrading, roads that carry higher levels of traffic will get priority over less trafficked roads of a similar condition.

In the event that additional funding can be provided to specifically address local secondary and tertiary roads we would welcome such an opportunity to address these roads in a targeted fashion.”

Item 24 Any Other Business

- Cllr. M. Begley queried if the assessment of small insurance roads claims were dealt with at Municipal District level or centrally. Anne Haugh replied that the reports and claims are managed centrally but carried out at Municipal District level.
- Cllr. P. Hayes queried whether any progress had been made on the proposed Visitor and Traffic Management Plan for the Burren National Park. It was agreed that this would be followed up before the next meeting.

The meeting then concluded.

Kieran O’Donnell
Meetings Administrator

21st September, 2017.