

**Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District**

**held on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.**

*Meeting held remotely on MS Teams due to Covid 19 Restrictions*

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

**Officials:** Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service  
Mr. Morgan Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer  
Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer

Members of the media attended.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Pat Hayes, chaired the meeting.

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**Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.**

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J Cooney and seconded by Cllr. Alan O Callaghan.

**Item 2 Matters Arising:**

No matters arising.

**Item 3 Set date for next meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting be provisionally arranged for Wednesday, May 19th . Confirmation of venue and time to follow.

**Item 4 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works**

John Leahy, Senior Engineer attended to present main elements of the Schedule of Municipal District works for 2021. J. Leahy advised that the total fund available is €34,556,723. This is

an increase on 2020 but includes €4m allocation for Killaloe Bridge/By-pass. The total allocation for the existing road network in Clare is €25,266,904, an increase of 3.2% on the 2020 allocation.

The sources of this funding are:

€5,312,040 from the TII in respect of national roads.

€25,266,904 from the DoT in respect of Non-national roads

€3,177,779 from the Council's own resources.

€800,000 from IPB for footpaths.

The Schedule provides for the following roads funding the Killaloe Municipal District for 2021:

Restoration Improvement Grant	€2,843,477
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€ 779,555
Discretionary Grant	€ 170,000
Drainage Works	€ 204,300
Regional Road Maintenance	€ 207,500
Local Road Maintenance	€ 501,000
Bridge Rehabilitation Works	€ 313,000
Safety Improvement Works	€ 105,000
Specific Improvement Grant (Henchy's Cross)	€ 100,000
Strategic Regional & Local Road (Shannon Crossing)	€4,000,000
IPB	€ 160,000

J. Leahy provided update on funding available for LIS and CIS scheme. Allocation for CIS is €140,000 in 2021. Clare County Council cleared the backlog of applications last year and the Roads Department will contact councillors to gauge interest in each of the MDs. Awaiting details of 2021 LIS allocation from Department of Rural & Community Development.

J. Leahy advised IPB footpath funding will mainly be used to refurbish existing paths. He added an application has been submitted to the NTA for Active Travel funding which includes works to footpaths.

Members welcomed the funding available under the works programme.

Members sought clarification on Safety Improvement works at Henchy's Cross. J. Leahy confirmed funding has been transferred over from 2020. He advised project appraisal was sent

to Department in 2020, but not progressed due to costings. The allocation of €100,000 will be utilised for signage and lining in 2021. J. Leahy advised the Council would continue to pursue the Department for a larger scheme in the future.

J. Leahy advised current Level 5 restrictions would delay commencement of programme, only TII works exempt at present.

A. Haugh gave an overview of the Housing element of the SMDW. There are 342 No. social housing units in the Killaloe MD and the maintenance budget for 2021 is €137,570. A. Haugh informed councillors quarterly briefings on Housing would take place commencing in May.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021 was proposed by Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. Joe Cooney.

Cllr. P. Hayes acknowledged the assistance John Corry, Administrative Officer gave to the East Clare area during his time in the Roads Department and wished him luck in his new role.

#### **Item 5            Section 83 – Broadford Village Traffic Calming**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021 from Liam O’Connor, Administrative Officer, Roads and Transportation Department was circulated with the agenda. The report states that it is proposed to carry out the following Traffic Calming measures in the Killaloe Municipal District in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994: “Pelican” pedestrian crossing with associated traffic management works at Broadford National School (R465), Broadford, Co. Clare.

Plans and particulars of the proposed works were publicly advertised and available for inspection from 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 on [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie) with objections or representations invited up to 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021. No objections or representations were received.

It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Cooney and seconded by Cllr. Tony O’Brien “That traffic calming measures in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 at Broadford National School (R465) be approved.”

Cllr. P. Hayes queried department funding available for works in Broadford. M. Lahiffe advised the pedestrian crossing would be funded under Clár and a safety improvement works grant has been allocated for the greater Broadford area.

#### **Item 6            Notices of Motion from Cllr. T. O’Brien**

"That Clare County Council put in place measures to alleviate parking difficulties near Bruach na Sionna,, O’Briens Bridge"

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

**Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“A meeting has been held between Clare County Council and Waterways Ireland in order to address any potential concerns around carparking that may arise in O'Briensbridge as a result of Waterways Ireland's proposed canoe trails project. It has been agreed that Waterways Ireland will communicate with the kayak club and with the dragon boat club, with a view to encouraging members to park in the nearby carpark adjacent to the playground in O'Briensbridge. A further meeting will be held with Waterways Ireland to decide upon the best locations for proposed signage to direct water users towards existing car parking facilities within the village. The Killaloe Municipal District will monitor the parking situation in this area and decide upon additional measures to help alleviate congestion, should the need arise.”

**Item 7 Notices of Motion from Cllr. T. O'Brien**

That signage be erected on the Hill road, Guarronboy, and Creevroe area advising motorists of walkers using the area"

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

**Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

Following an assessment of these particular areas, the Killaloe Municipal District will provide signage to alert motorists of walkers in these locations.

**Item 8 Notices of Motion from Cllr. P Hayes**

"Following on from a recent debate of the Transport Committee in Dáil Éireann, in which the Crusheen rail stop was debated & where the CEO of Irish Rail Mr. Jim Meade, stated that ‘We would state quite clearly that the responsibility for developing a transport strategy still remains with the local authority, as part of its county development plan and policy. Subject to a positive outcome from any appraisal they may make we would, in principle, support the development of a station at Crusheen. It will be necessary for the County council to arrange for the production of the required business case, as it is the authority with such responsibility. We would support the development should that occur’. I now propose that Clare County Council prepare a business case to support the development of a Rail stop at Crusheen.”

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

**John Gannon, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation replied as follows:**

‘Clare County Council will commence a Transportation Strategy in conjunction with the National Transport Authority in 2021. The County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 supports and facilitates the re-opening of the Crusheen train station by safeguarding lands along the route of

the railway to provide for the necessary infrastructure to facilitate a train stop in Crusheen. A Clare transportation strategy will take into consideration the objectives of the County Development Plan and the outcome of this strategy will determine transportation policy and priorities over the coming years in County Clare. This process will highlight any gaps in the public transport network and how these can be addressed. It will also inform future decisions in relation to capital investment in transportation in Clare.'

Cllr. P. Hayes expressed concern the case could get lost in the Transportation Strategy and asked J. Leahy that a strong business case be made for the Crusheen stop. J. Leahy replied that an overall plan to inform future decisions must be developed and must have the support of the NTA. Cllr. P. Hayes requested that tentative work be carried out on the Crusheen stop outside of the Transportation Strategy and discussions take place with NTA and Iarnrod Eireann. J. Leahy advised he would discuss with NTA.

#### **Item 9 Notices of Motion from Cllr. P Hayes**

"I am asking for an update in regard to the proposed river drainage programme for the Killaloe Municipal District."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

#### **Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

"The drainage allocations that the Killaloe Municipal District have received for 2020 and for 2021 have been significantly reduced from previous years' allocations. This has unfortunately resulted in projects, such as the River Grainey, being removed from the programme of works. Notwithstanding this, the Killaloe Municipal District Office will consider the River Grainey for the 2022 schedule of works. Preparatory surveys and environmental assessments will be required prior to any works taking place and the Killaloe Municipal District endeavours to carry out such evaluations in 2021. The Killaloe Municipal District has already commenced consultations with Clare County Council's Environment Department and with Inland Fisheries in this regard."

Cllr. O'Callaghan requested the lower Owenagarney River, Sixmilebridge be examined. Cllr. P. Burke referred to the Derainey River and acknowledging the council writing to landowners stated more works need to be carried out on the river. J. Leahy informed members the council will pursue additional funding from the Department of Transport later in the year.

J. Leahy left meeting.

#### **Item 10 Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Cooney**

"That Clare County Council carry out improvement works on the bad dip's and resurface the bad sections of the R462 Tulla to Kilkishen Road in the interests of road safety."

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

**Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“The R462 between Tulla and Kilkishen is approximately 7km in length with varying gradients. The Killaloe Municipal District has identified a section of the R462 between the two locations which requires restoration maintenance and it is the intention of the Municipal District to carry out these works this year. Further sections of the R462 will be closely monitored throughout 2021 and repair works will be carried out as necessary. It is anticipated that an additional stretch of this road will be considered for works under the 2022 Roads Works Programme.”

**Item 11 Notice of Motion from Cllr. J. Cooney:**

That Clare County Council locate a barrier in conjunction with householders, landowners, the 12 O’Clock Hills committee and Coillte on the link road between the L3016 at Torpey Hurleys and the R471 at Oatfield Church to try and stop the unlawful activities e.g. rubbish dumping, thefts, bike scrambling which is been carried out in the 12 o Clock Hills catchment area"

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

**Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“The L-30101 is a local tertiary road that connects the L-3010 to the R471 at Oatfield. While the Killaloe Municipal District has sympathy for anyone affected by antisocial behaviour, a public right of way exists over this public road and erecting a barrier on the road would require an extinguishment of this public right of way.”

In response to query from Cllr. J. Cooney, N. Madden outlined process for extinguishment of public right of way under Roads Act. Cllr. J. Cooney emphasised the importance of public consultation. Cllr. J. Cooney clarified he is proposing a barrier across the road that could be locked.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested N. Madden meet with 12 O’Clock Hills committee to discuss the matter further.

**Item 12 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Burke:**

"Calling on the Housing section of Clare County Council to give an update on the status of Mounshannon House. Who is responsible for the upkeep of the house? Who owns the house and what is the Local Authorities interest in the house?"

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

**Mairead Corbett, Administrative Officer, Housing Section replied as follows:**

“Mountshannon House was purchased by Respond Voluntary Housing Association in 2002 to provide housing for people on Clare County Council’s social housing waiting list. The purchase was financed by a loan raised by the Council. The intention was to construct units of accommodation for special needs and elderly under the CAS Scheme. This Scheme has not progressed to date. Respond are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the house as they own the house with Clare County Council having a charge on the property.

A meeting was held with Respond in October 2019 to discuss their proposals with regard to the future use of the property. Proposals were subsequently received for the development of 10 units of accommodation but further information is required before submitting to the Department. The Council has been in touch with Respond and the receipt of this information is awaited.”

Cllr. Pat Burke commented on the length of time the property has been vacant as disgraceful and Cllr. Cooney stated that some action needs to be taken by the council on the matter. Cllr. P. Hayes asked how much of a loan was raised and what is the balance? A. Haugh advised members that this is a legacy issue and a meeting took place with Respond in October, 2019 to advance the scheme. Respond have to discuss the CAS application with the Department and develop their proposal.

**Item 13 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Burke:-**

"Calling on Clare County Council to upgrade a section of footpath at Drewsborough, Tuamgraney between Niland’s filling station and Nuala’s Restaurant"

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr J Cooney

**Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“The Killaloe Municipal District will carry out a survey of this footpath and carry out essential maintenance where necessary.”

Cllr P Burke stated that the works were necessary as a lot of people are using the path. He welcomed the response from Clare County Council

**Item 14 Notice of Motion from Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan**

"I request that Killaloe MD install a street light at the Kilkishen side of the Derra Cottages in the interest of safety".

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr J Cooney

**Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“The Killaloe Municipal District will carry out an assessment on the existing lighting at the Kilkishen side of the Derra cottages and based on the results of this, a decision will be made in relation to the need for additional lighting at this location.”

**Item 15 Notice of Motion from Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan**

"I ask the Council to finish the footpath across from the GAA field in Kilkishen in the interests of safety".

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr P Hayes

**Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

“The allocation for works to footpaths in the Killaloe Municipal District for 2021 has been significantly reduced. The footpath in question is currently a gravel footpath and should funding become available throughout the year, the Killaloe Municipal District will consider surfacing this pathway.”

Cllr O’ Callaghan stated that it was a Health and Safety issue and that the works needed to be carried out as soon as the council can.

**Item 16. Any other business.**

Cllr Hayes requested an update on the Limerick to Scarriff Greenway. M Lahiffe ASEO replied that Waterways Ireland are leading on the project but that Clare County Council will be collaborating with them on it. M Lahiffe stated that Waterways Ireland have tendered for designer consultants in relation to route selection for the project and hope to be in a position to have route selection by the end of 2021. M Lahiffe also stated that a briefing can be arranged with Cllrs in relation to the project.

The meeting then concluded.

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**Morgan Lahiffe**  
**A/ Senior Executive Officer**

**14th May, 2021**



