

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 19th May, 2021 at 10.15 a.m.

*Meeting held in Council Chamber, Áras Chontae an Chláir and
remotely on MS Teams*

In attendance: Cllr. Pat Hayes
Cllr. Pat Burke (accessed remotely)
Cllr. Joe Cooney
Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan
Cllr. Tony O’Brien (accessed remotely)

Officials: Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service
Mr. Morgan Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer

Apologies: Ms. Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer

Members of the media attended & accessed remotely.

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

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr. J. Cooney requested a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss recent developments regarding the Aer Lingus cabin crew base in Shannon.

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

All members were agreeable to this request.

Cllr. J. Cooney referred to the announcement by Aer Lingus of its intention to permanently close its cabin crew staff base at Shannon Airport, he stated it is expected that up to 80 staff may be made redundant as a result. He described this as devastating news for staff and their families and was disappointed in the way the news broke. He highlighted the importance of Shannon Airport to development in the region and reliance on the airport for business and tourism

connectivity. Cllr. J. Cooney called on Clare County Council to call a special meeting of Councillors and Oireachtas Members as soon as possible to discuss this matter.

All members concurred, commenting on the unsatisfactory manner in which the decision was relayed to staff and the lack of communication with unions. Members highlighted the need for the government to ensure services at Shannon Airport are retained as the airport is central to development in the region and should not be left vulnerable to commercial considerations. The Mayor's press statement earlier that morning was acknowledged.

Cllr. Cooney advised he had spoken to the Cathaoirleach regarding the Special meeting and hoped it would take place early next week.

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 24th March, 2021.

Cllr. P. Burke requested Item 4 be amended to include "Cllr. P. Burke expressed disappointment at the omission of Carowena Road, Ogonnelloe in the Restoration Improvement Programme 2021 and requested the road be included in next year's programme".

The minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 24th March, 2021 were confirmed with amendment having been proposed by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan & seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

Item 2 Matters Arising:

Cllr. Pat Burke, referring to Item 13, sought an update in relation to footpath maintenance in Drewsboro. D. Flanagan replied works have not yet been carried out as crews are currently assigned to the annual roadworks programme which experienced delays in commencement due to Covid restrictions.

Cllr. P. Hayes, referring to AOB, advised he attended meeting with Waterways Ireland regarding the Limerick to Scarriff Greenway, where a general discussion on the overall plan took place. Cllr. P. Hayes requested the Senior Executive Engineer, Killaloe MD arrange a meeting with Waterways Ireland.

Cllr. T. O'Brien complimented Killaloe MD staff on the signage erected in O'Briensbridge and noted signage on the Walkway to be put in place next week

Item 3 Set date for next Killaloe MD meeting

It was agreed the next Killaloe MD meeting be provisionally arranged for Wednesday, 14th July, 2021. Confirmation of venue and time to follow. Members will continue to submit two notices of motion.

Item 4 Set date for Killaloe MD 2021 AGM

Item 5 Set date for Special Meeting on the draft Casual Trading Bye-laws 2021

Agreed Item 4 & Item 5 be combined for discussion. Both meetings to be arranged for Wednesday, 23rd June, 2021. Confirmation of venue and time to follow.

Item 6 & Item 13

Agreed Items 6 & 13 be combined for discussion.

Item 6 Notices of Motion from Cllr. T. O'Brien

“That new bins be sourced for Killaloe town and resources put in place to service these bins particularly at weekends.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“The Killaloe Municipal District is in the process of procuring new bins for Killaloe town. The servicing of the bins in Killaloe is resourced by the Killaloe Municipal District and there are no current plans to alter this ongoing maintenance arrangement.”

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to replace and upgrade the litter bins in the town of Scarriff.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“The Killaloe Municipal District has very recently engaged with Scarriff Tidy Towns with regards to litter bins in Scarriff. A condition survey will be carried out on the litter bins in the town within the coming weeks and the Municipal District will continue to engage with the Tidy Towns Committee with regards to any future proposals for litter bins in the town.”

Cllr. P. Burke queried why bins for Scarriff could not be procured along with those in Killaloe? M. Lahiffe replied a survey is to be carried out in Scarriff next week and if required bins would

then be procured. Members commented on the importance of servicing bins and highlighted problems with use of bins for disposal of domestic waste.

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

“That traffic calming measures and pedestrian safety measures be installed at Shantraud Killaloe at the junction of Crossroads and Convent Hill adjacent to the Boys National School and the GAA pitch.”

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

Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

“The Killaloe/Ballina Mobility Assessment Plan is currently being prepared on behalf of Clare and Tipperary Local Authorities. This plan will identify any deficiencies in public infrastructure and make recommendations in relation to same. Traffic surveys have recently been carried out at this location as part of the preparatory work for this plan. Notwithstanding this, the Killaloe Municipal District will carry out speed surveys and examine this location. We will analyse these results and evaluate if traffic calming measures and/or other measures are required.”

Cllr. T. O'Brien stated this junction requires traffic safety measures as soon as possible and cannot wait for the implementation of the Mobility Assessment Plan.

Item 8 Notices of Motion from Cllr. P. Hayes

“I am asking that a previously proposed motion for the upgrade of Cranagher junction in Clooney on the R352 be implemented as a matter of urgency. This is an extremely busy junction leading to Clooney National School. When exiting on to the R352 sight lines are non-existent and needs immediate attention.”

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

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“The Killaloe Municipal District has referred this request to the Roads Design section to be assessed for inclusion under a low cost safety scheme. In the meantime, the municipal district will improve sightlines by way of hedgecutting, where possible. The MD will also examine the condition of the signage and refresh the linemarking at the junction.”

Cllr. P. Hayes stated the junction requires immediate attention and as works may not qualify for Low Cost Safety funding, could funding be provided by the council? He asked if some works could be carried out soon.

Item 9 Notices of Motion from Cllr. P. Hayes

“I am asking that the Area office in conjunction with the Environment section of the Council immediately deal with the recurring problem of dog fouling in all of our towns and villages. Including both our green areas and tourism points.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Reply from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Environment & Water Services:

“Clare, Cork, Limerick and Tipperary Local Authorities have just recently collaborated on a new social media campaign to combat dog litter. This media campaign blitz took place from Wednesday 28th April to Monday 3rd May, to coincide with the May bank holiday weekend. The purpose of this media campaign was to raise awareness with dog owners of the importance of taking personal responsibility and cleaning up after their dog.

The campaign highlights that Dog litter is an issue throughout Ireland. Everyone has an experience of stepping in it or wheeling in it for example with buggies, wheelchairs and bikes. It highlighted that citizens with dogs need to be responsible, show you love your dog, your community and your county and protect public health. It emphasises that Dog littering is not a dog problem, but it is a dog owner problem, and people are asked to take poo bags every time you walk your dog in a public place. Many responsible dog owners are doing this already and know that it is the law to bag and bin their dog’s litter.

The campaign highlights that all bags, containing dog poop, are litter and this includes dog litter bags that are compostable. The campaign emphasises the importance for dog owners of always controlling their dog and not allowing them to roam freely and leaving dog poo in public spaces. It also addresses the importance of bringing home your dog’s poo waste if there are no public bins or if the public bins are full.

In addition to this recent and previous media awareness campaigns the Environment Section Community Wardens are also empowered to issue fines in relation to dog fouling wherever they encounter such an activity. The wardens will be actively patrolling our amenity and tourism sites throughout the holiday season.”

Cllr. P. Hayes acknowledged reply, and asked if a different approach could be taken in Killaloe MD, could more power be given to community wardens or could local staff be empowered to issue fines? M. Lahiffe replied that it is a county wide/country wide issue, fines have been issued and he will request the community warden carry out regular patrols in the municipal district.

Item 10 Notice of Motion from Cllr. J. Cooney

“That Clare County Council outline the footpath programme for the Killaloe Municipal District for 2021, and will the walking trail from Killaloe be connected to the footpaths in Tuamgraney?”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“Clare County Council is currently in the process of finalising the list of housing developments within the Killaloe Municipal District, where improvement works, subject to budget, will be carried out in 2021. It is also proposed to construct areas of new footpath infrastructure in Tulla, Kilmurray, Quin, Clarisford in Killaloe, Dromandoora and Crusheen this year. The Killaloe Municipal District will examine the various funding streams to ascertain what might be most suitable to extend the new walking trail to Tuamgraney in the future. Presently, walkers can exit this trail at the junction of the R463 and the Ballyvanin Road and continue walking along a further existing trail, which connects to Tuamgraney just south of St. Cronan's Church.”

Cllr. J. Cooney expressed disappointment that report not yet available and requested a copy of list as soon as it is finalized. Cllr. P. Burke stated the path to Tuamgraney needs to be completed and council should investigate funding sources for this. Cllr. P. Hayes requested a meeting with the Senior Executive Engineer on site. M. Lahiffe responded the Active Travel scheme may make funds available for this work in 2022.

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

“That Clare County Council carry out road works on the Ballyhickey road, Quin as the road is in a very poor condition.”

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

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“Although this road is not on the current roads programme, it will be considered for inclusion in the 2022 roadworks programme. In the meantime, the Killaloe Municipal District undertakes to carry out essential maintenance on this road in 2021.”

Cllr. J. Cooney expressed disappointment road not included in 2021 programme.

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to provide an update on the Killaloe Bypass project.”

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

Reply from Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Projects Management Office:

“Excellent progress has been made in this project in recent months with the significant bundle of Advance Works due to be completed by our Contractors, Coir Infrastructure in the coming weeks. The main Archaeological Works have been completed and all areas have been backfilled. Following the site clearance works, additional areas were identified for further investigation in order to de-risk the main contract works. Archaeology investigations were required on the canal island also. The Draft Tender suite of documents has been finalised and forwarded to the Department of Transport for their review. All going well, we would expect to get the Ministers approval to proceed to tender around mid June. Meeting this milestone will position us nicely to run the tender competition, assess the submitted bids from the six shortlisted Contractors, select a preferred bidder and subject to Ministerial approval, award the contract by year end. It would then be expected that following mobilisation, Construction of the main scheme works would commence on site in the Spring of next year 2022. Due to the seasonal constraints associated with in-river works, the construction period is expected to take between 30 and 36 months to complete.

In parallel to the works outlined above, we are progressing with the remaining Landowner Agreements, mostly by direct negotiation with a very small few choosing to go the Arbitration

route. Following the easing of Covid related restrictions, these are due to recommence in mid June and July. We will keep the Members informed of developments and are happy to discuss/clarify any particular queries that you or indeed the public may have in relation to any aspects of the proposed works.”

Cllr. T. O’Brien commented progress on the project is satisfactory and it is incumbent on Killaloe MD councilors to maintain pressure on the government to keep the project on track.

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

“That works be carried out on the road L3148 1 km from the village of Quin just passed the entrance to Ballyquilty manor where there are dangerous stones on the roadside verge that are causing huge damage to vehicles.”

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

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“The stones at this location are part of a retaining stone boundary wall. The Killaloe Municipal District will investigate the most appropriate course of action to deal with this matter.”

In reply to Cllr. A. O’Callaghan, D. Flanagan advised delineators have been put in place to warn motorists and signage has been ordered. Engagement with the landowner will be necessary to resolve this issue.

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

“I ask this council to carry out a survey on the footpaths in Ballymulcashel Estate, Kilmurry as some are in need of repair.”

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

Reply from Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer:

“The Killaloe Municipal District will carry out a survey of the footpaths in Ballymulcashell estate and carry out essential maintenance where necessary.”

Item 16. Any other business.

Cllr. J. Cooney advised of recent severe flooding near Scarriff Community College. D. Flanagan replied that funding has been allocated, the location will be surveyed and a plan put in place when required works are identified.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan sought an update on the temporary footpath closure in Tulla. M. Lahiffe replied the Fire Services are engaging with the owner who has committed to fulfil his responsibility and is in the process of engaging a contractor.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan asked that an update on the CIS (CRS) Scheme and Flooding in Ballycar be included as agenda items for next Killaloe MD meeting. This request was supported by the other members.

In reply to Cllr. Pat Hayes request for an update on the social housing scheme on the Feakle Road, Scarriff, A. Haugh informed the members that draft plans for the revised design are being finalised and will require departmental approval.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested an update on funding for the Inis Cealtra project

Cllr. Pat Burke asked if the LIS Scheme has re-opened and will new applications be accepted? M. Lahiffe replied correspondence on the scheme for 2021 is expected shortly and he will keep the members updated.

A vote of sympathy was expressed to Joe Fallon, former Garda Sergeant in Scarriff, on the death of his father Tom Fallon, RIP.

The meeting then concluded.

Morgan Lahiffe
A/ Senior Executive Officer

31st May, 2021