

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 20th July 2022 at 3.00pm

Meeting held in Killaloe Municipal District Office, Scarriff

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

Officials: Mr. Morgan Lahiffe, Acting Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Kathy Lordan, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service
Members of the media attended

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan, chaired the meeting.

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held on 11th May 2022

The Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 11th May 2022 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes.

Item 2 Minutes of Killaloe MD AGM held on 24th June 2022

The Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District AGM held on 24th June 2022 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

Item 3 Matters Arising

Re. Item 11, Cllr P. Burke expressed thanks for acting swiftly and speaking to the landowner M Lahiffe advised a number of other junctions are also being looked at.

Re. Item 7, Cllr. T. O'Brien requested update on resurfacing of bridge from Killaloe Road to O'Brien's bridge.

Declan Flanagan replied that the ESB are responsible for that bridge.

Re. Item 8, Cllr. T. O'Brien commented on trojan work done by local community group in Killaloe on cleaning footpath.

Cllr. P. Hayes congratulated Cllr. T. Brien on being nominate as Mayor of the County and wished him well in the role.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested progress report on EV charging points for East Clare.

Morgan advised that he has spoke to Anne O'Sullivan and she is preparing a strategy for the Council for the County in general; a number of towns pinpointed for pilots in East Clare.

Item 4 Set date for next meeting

It was agreed the next Killaloe Municipal District take place at 11.00am on 21st September 2022 in Aras Contae an Chlair.

Item 5 Section 38 Dromindoora Village

Report dated 13th May 2022 from Conor McDonagh, Executive Engineer, Road Design Office was circulated with the agenda.

The members noted the report, as presented, and the approval of traffic calming measures on the R461 at Dromindoora was proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes, seconded by Cllr. T. O'Brien and agreed.

Item 6 Killaloe MD General Municipal Allocation

Report as circulated was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney, seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes and agreed.

Item 7 Notice of Motion from Cllr. A. O'Callaghan:-

"Ask this council to carry out works on the playground in Crusheen i.e. like lighting where vandalism is happening".

Proposed by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes

Reply from John Treacy, Community Playground Co Ordinator, Rural Dev.

"The Rural & Community department have made contact with local Gardaí in Crusheen and there is ongoing discussion to identifying suitable solutions to help the local Community Playground Committee to mitigate against events of anti-social behaviour at the playground. Crusheen Playground is not a Council-owned playground, it is managed by the local community committee".

Alan o Callaghan stated he has spoken with local Gardai and that perhaps lights would help at the location. Cllr Hayes spoke of the need to get these playgrounds under the insurance of the council.

Item 8 Notice of Motion from Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

"Ask the MD to carry out works at Ballysheen graveyard where temporary silage bales are put to stop illegal camping. This ground was given by local farmer for parking at graveyard".

Proposed by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

"Killaloe Municipal District staff have recently met with representatives of Ballysheen Graveyard to discuss options for improvement of parking on the public road adjacent to the graveyard. It is expected that arrangements will made by agreement with the landowner to remove the bales that have been in place for a number of years. Killaloe Municipal District intends to undertake maintenance works and mark parking spaces, subject to availability of funding".

Cllr O Callaghan was not in favour of removing bales until a clear long term solution was found.

Cllr Cooney stated that it was disappointing the bales were needed to stop the issue of illegal parking.

Item 9 Notice of Motion from Cllr. T. O'Brien:-

"That the council engage with all the relevant bodies and organise a major clean up and facelift of the lower end of Killaloe town and the bridge linking Killaloe - Ballina. The entire area has become overgrown. The pedestrian bridge over the canal is in very poor state and needs to get a major clean up. Organisations that should be involved include Tipperary Co Co and Waterways Ireland".

Proposed by Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“Killaloe Municipal District will commit to arranging a meeting with Tipperary County Council, Waterways Ireland and the ESB, in order clarify areas of responsibility and to establish maintenance requirements for this area. Where accessible, painting maintenance will be undertaken on the pedestrian bridge. It is expected that more significant maintenance and repair works may be required on the pedestrian bridge. A structural inspection of the pedestrian bridge will be arranged in the coming months.

There is a reciprocal agreement in place with Tipperary County Council on bridge maintenance inspections of the Killaloe-Ballina road bridge, which are generally undertaken every 5 years. It is expected that this road bridge will be included in the next round of inspections, funded by the Department of Transport. This inspection will address the vegetation overgrowth to bridge abutment structures, bridge sidewalls/parapets and recommend the required remediation measures”.

Cllr O'Brien was happy with response. He stated his motion was tabled on back of town enhancement & mobility plan. He stated that the bottom of town is in a neglected state and that a number of agencies should be involved – not just CCC.

M Lahiffe stated that the council have constant interaction with Waterways Ireland and that meetings can be facilitated, firstly with Waterways Ireland.

Item 10 Notice of Motion from Cllr. T. O'Brien

“That speed ramps be included in the proposed road resurfacing at lower Ardnataggle due to the high level of usage by non residents”.

Proposed by Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“The existing speed limit on this section of road is currently 80km/h, and Killaloe Municipal District intends to undertake 400m of restoration improvement works at this location in the

coming months. Killaloe Municipal District will commit to undertaking a speed survey at this location to establish if speeding is occurring. In addition, consultation will be undertaken with An Garda Síochána. In order to implement any traffic calming measures, the Local Authority is required to comply with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, which includes a public consultation process. Traffic calming measures are only be applied to roads within 50km/h or 60km/h speed limits”.

Cllr O Brien stated that there are a number of elderly residents living on that stretch and that signage is required.

Cllr Cooney added that signage does not work in a lot of cases.

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

“That Clare County Council gave an update on the proposed car park for the town of Scarriff”.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes

Reply from Morgan Lahiffe, Acting Senior Executive Officer:

“The proposed Car Park in Scarriff is one part of a three part regeneration project for Scarriff, the second being the Multi Service Centre Hub and the third being the public realm upgrade to the Market House and Fairgreen area. Agreement is in place for the purchase of land close to the town centre for the provision of a Car Park. This property acquisition is ongoing. Clare County Council are currently surveying and building design options for the Car Park. On arriving at a workable design, Clare Co Co will submit a Part V111 application for the project. We hope to submit the Part V111 over the coming months”.

Motions 11 and 14 were taken together.

Cllr Cooney welcomed the response and said it was becoming critical that the car park is delivered for Scarriff at this stage. He wondered if the Part v111 planning could be done in 2022 and the car park delivered by end of 2023.

Cllr P Burke said the pressure was mounting for the delivery of the car park in Scarriff town especially with the closing of nearby post offices.

Cllr Hayes welcomed all aspects of the Scarriff project but remarked that the car park needs to be a priority and that the public realm and the Multi Service centre hub can breathe new life into Scarriff. Cllr O Callaghan stated it was good to see all the pieces coming together , ie Car park, hub and public realm.

Item 12 Notices of Motion from Cllr. J. Cooney:-

“That Clare County Council explore the options of extra parking at the Two Mile Gate and the maintenance of the walkway on the Tuamgraney Killaloe Road”.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by Cllr. Tony O Brien

Reply from Morgan Lahiffe, Acting Senior Executive Officer:

“Clare County Council’s Tourism strategy 2030 looks to build the tourism product in the East Clare region. The Twomilegate amenity is a key part of the tourism offering into the future. Clare County Council recognises, like many coastal amenities in the West of the county, that when warm weather is present, it brings challenges to the local authority in relation to parking and parking availability. At Twomilegate, Clare County Council have brought a traffic calming scheme through a Section 38 process and hope to secure funding for those works in the next 12 months. The speed limit at Twomilegate has been reduced from 80kph to 50kph which is a control measure for the reduction of risk for all present. We are assessing our own land holdings in the area to ascertain if we can provide an overflow car park into the future. Clare County Council will brief the members when this piece of feasibility work is complete.

The Blueway trail from Tuamgraney to Twomilegate was completed in 2020. It provides a safe multi modal trail from community to community. Clare County Council have carried out some verge trimming on areas of the trail that were overgrown in recent days. We will carry out further trimming at the end of the season. There are areas of this trail that get maintained by community groups and residents and we would encourage this to continue into the future”.

Items 12 & 13 were taken together.

Cllr Cooney thanked the Council for all work done in Twomilegate over last 2 years. He stated that the problem is parking in that area when warm days come; maybe from local landowner when required from time to time. He stated the importance of working with community groups in Ogonnelloe & Tuamgraney in relation to the maintenance of the blueway trail.

Cllr Burke stated that there is an issue in warm weather and suggested the road could be widened for a distance.

Cllr O'Brien stated that the Gardai have a role to play regarding road safety and that a lot of work and effort went in to providing footpath in the area which is being blocked.

Cllr Hayes stated that it is not sustainable parking on the public road Ballycuggeran is a great facility and attracts a huge amount of people. In relation to the blueway trail he stated that it is imperative to keep work done on it after it costing €1m.

Cllr O'Callaghans suggested the need to talk to the landowners with a view to providing a facility for few days of the year to keep cars off the road

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to explore ways to improve the level of parking at Ballycuggeran “

Proposed by Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by Cllr. Hayes

Reply from Morgan Lahiffe, Acting Senior Executive Officer:

“Clare County Council’s Tourism strategy 2030 looks to build the tourism product in the East Clare region. The Twomilegate amenity is a key part of the tourism offering into the future. Clare County Council recognises, like many coastal amenities in the West of the county, that when warm weather is present, it brings challenges to the local authority in relation to parking and parking availability. At Twomilegate, Clare County Council have brought a traffic calming scheme through a Section 38 process and hope to secure funding for those works in the next 12 months. The speed limit at Twomilegate has been reduced from 80kph to 50kph which is a control measure for the reduction of risk for all present. We are assessing our own land holdings in the area to ascertain if we can provide an overflow car park into the future. Clare County Council will brief the members when this piece of feasibility work is complete”.

Item 14 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Burke:-

“Calling on Clare County Council to provide an update on the Scarriff Rural Regeneration Project including the provision of car parking “

Proposed by Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes

Reply from Morgan Lahiffe, Acting Senior Executive Officer:

“The proposed Car Park in Scarriff is one part of a three part regeneration project for Scarriff, the second being the Multi Service Centre Hub and the third being the public realm upgrade to the Market House and Fairgreen area. Agreement is in place for the purchase of land close to the town centre for the provision of a Car Park. This property acquisition is ongoing. Clare County Council are currently surveying and building design options for the Car Park. On arriving at a workable design, Clare Co Co will submit a Part V111 application for the project. We hope to submit the Part V111 over the coming months.

The Public Realm concept design process for Scarriff Market House and Fairgreen area is just complete. This design process was carried out for the Scarriff Town Team with input from Clare County Council and went through a public consultation process. We intend to now develop out these concept designs into working designs and contractual documents over the coming months.

The Multiservice Centre element of the project is currently at design and survey stage. Clare County Council has agreement and funding in place to purchase a property which will site the new Centre. The property acquisition is ongoing. It is intended that this element of the project will go for Part v111 planning over the coming months.

All the above aspects of the regeneration project are all part of the RRDF (Rural Regeneration Development Fund) Category 2 proposal which is being funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. It is Clare County Councils intention to be in a position to submit this project for Category 1 funding when the Department advertises for same”.

Item 15 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Hayes:-

“I am asking that the speed limit in Clooney village be extended on the Ennis side to incorporate the existing houses in this area. Presently the speed signs are placed on the bend and are not visible from a distance which leads to speeding coming into the village. “

Proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“The existing speed limit at Clooney Village on the R352 is 50km/h. Speed limit reviews are initiated by the TII, usually every 5 years, not individually by local authorities. The last speed limit review in Clare was completed in 2018 and came into force in 2019. No date has been fixed for the next speed limit review.

A member of the public can object to and appeal an existing speed limit contained within the Local Authority’s current Speed Limit Bye-Laws. The appeal is made to Clare County Council Appeals Panel. If speed limits are to be amended, as a result of appeals, they will go before a Council meeting once a year for consideration. Killaloe Municipal District will refer this request, in accordance with Clare County Council Speed Limits Appeals Procedure”.

Cllr Hayes commented that exceptional work has been done in Clooney but that waiting another 2 years isn’t going to resolve the speed limit issue. He stated that the last speed limit review took too long.

Cllr O Callaghan suggested amending the speed limits now rather than waiting. Also mentioned a few more areas like Kilkishen.

Cllr Hayes proposed that the appeal system be used now in this case.

Cllr Cooney said similar is happening in a number of areas; need to look at slowing traffic coming in to villages; if there was an active member of an Garda Siochana it would help.

Item 16 Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Hayes:-

“I am asking that a full review of the existing speed control measures on the Tulla rd Crusheen be reviewed to look at alternative ways of controlling traffic at this location and also a plan to

upgrade existing road surface and footpaths in this area as they present a very poor image on entering Crusheen village.”

Proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by Cllr. P. Burke

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“Killaloe Municipal District in conjunction with Clare County Council Road Design Section will undertake a review of the existing traffic calming measures in terms of vehicular speed reduction and pedestrian safety improvement. The existing speed limit at this location is 50km/h.

Clár Grant funded safety improvement works are currently nearing completion at nearby Crusheen National School”.

Cllr Hayes stated coming in from Tulla road to Crusheen and how it looks it is not presenting a very positive image and that road surfacing and traffic calming is needed and total review of how the traffic is managed is also required

Cllr Burke supported the motion.

Any other business.

Cllr O Callaghan stated his disappointment at AIB proposing to reduce services around the country. All Cllrs agreed.

Cllr Burke noted the rise in Anti Social behaviour and vandalism both at Mountshannon and Dromaan Harbour during the Summer months.

Cllr o Brien complimented An Gardai on the 100 year centenary celebrations held recently in Killaloe He also praised workers involved in Twomilegate amenity.

Cllrs Hayes commented on the uncertainty that a lot of Water services workers have in the council as the moment and asked for clarity on their future role.

Cllr O Callaghan praised the work in Maigh Dara, Quin

The meeting concluded.