

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 11th July 2017 at 9.45am at the offices of the Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare

Present: Councillors Mike McKee (Cathaoirleach), Gerard Flynn, John Crowe, Pat McMahon, PJ Ryan, Cathal Crowe.

Helen Walsh A/ Director of Service, Eugene O'Shea Senior Executive Engineer, Deirdre Ryan Meeting Administrator.

Apologies: Liam Conneally, Director of Service.

1. Minutes of meeting of Shannon Municipal District held on 9th May (Adjourned) and 16th May 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May & 16th May 2017 were proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn, seconded by Cllr PJ Ryan and agreed.

2. Minutes of meeting of AGM of Shannon Municipal District held on 27th June 2017.

The minutes of the AGM held on 27th June 2017 were proposed by Cllr John Crowe, seconded by Cllr Pat McMahon and agreed.

3. Meeting with Irish Water.

The members expressed continued dissatisfaction with Irish Water's non attendance at a statutory meeting of the SMD and their approach to communication with elected members.

Cllr Cathal Crowe proposed and Cllr Gerard Flynn seconded that we again invite Irish Water to attend a meeting with SMD and the Members would be flexible to meet Irish Water at time and day that would suit them. They also agreed that a Water Services official from Clare County Council should be invited to attend a SMD meeting. All members were in agreement.

They also agreed to keep this item on the Agenda.

4. Hinterland Funding – Playgrounds locations at Meelick and Westbury.

Cllr Mike McKee welcomed Deirdre O'Shea Administrative Officer, Rural Development. Deirdre circulated a detailed document regarding the proposed location for the playground at Meelick. She advised the members that following consultation the preferred location was now the site at the Community Hall in Meelick. She advised the members to be cognisant of the engineering assessment of this site as outlined in her circular, when considering this location.

Cllr Cathal Crowe proposed and Cllr PJ Ryan seconded this site at the Community Hall, Meelick as the potential site for the playground location. The Members agreed and recommended the engineering assessment be factored into the planning process.

Deirdre O'Shea then advised that following the SMD approval of this site the Playground Committee would then begin the process of public consultation as well as attendance at pre-planning meeting with the Planning Department.

She also advised that the Playground at Westbury is at pre-planning stage.

5. Moneen and Kilquane Burial Grounds.

This item has been a standing item on the Agenda since 2016 and had been deferred from the May 2017 meeting of SMD. Additional requests had also been made by the Members for the relevant staff from the Rural Directorate to attend this meeting.

A brief update was circulated to the Members and they expressed their dissatisfaction that there was no representative from the Rural Directorate to report directly to the meeting.

The Members are extremely concerned about the erosion of right of way access to burial grounds and advised the Council to be cautious. They want the executive to prioritise ease of access to burial grounds particularly for older people and people with disabilities.

They welcomed the appointment of a part-time Caretaker for Kilquane burial ground but were disappointed that there was no consultation with the Burial Ground Committee with regard to the particulars of the position.

Cllr Gerard Flynn proposed and Cllr Cathal Crowe seconded a formal request for a senior official from the rural doctorate to attend the September meeting of Shannon MD.

Deirdre O'Shea advised that she would bring the Members concerns back to the relevant officials in the Rural Development Directorate.

6. Proposed Disposal of Property at 21 Tradaree Court, Shannon, Co. Clare.

The proposed disposal of property at 21, Tradaree Court, Shannon, Co. Clare was proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr Mike McKee and agreed by all.

7. Proposed Declaration of Public Roads at the following locations - i) Chapel Court, Sixmilebridge; ii) Woodview Heights, Sixmilebridge; iii) Ros na Greine, Shannon.

The declaration of public roads at; i) Chapel Court, Sixmilebridge; ii) Woodview Heights, Sixmilebridge; iii) Ros na Greine, Shannon were proposed by Cllr PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr John Crowe and agreed by all.

8. Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project – Funding Contribution Request.

The Members fully supported the Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project however the MD does not have resources available to facilitate this funding request.

Cllr Gerard Flynn proposed and Cllr PJ Ryan seconded that this funding request be submitted to the Senior Management Team in the Council for consideration.

9. Bank of Ireland Enterprise Towns Competition.

The Members were delighted that the Shannon Venue Project; Newmarket on Fergus Development Committee; Sixmilebridge Twinning Committee and Bunratty Development Association would be representing the MD at this national competition. They wished the groups well in their endeavours.

10. Roads Programme.

Eugene O'Shea advised that the Surface Dressing Programme was complete in June and the Road Restoration Programme is progressing in the district. He also advised that two Low Cost Safety Schemes will be complete over the coming months.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested the MD carry out urgent hedge-cutting in Knockroe, Moneen and Meelick in the interest of public safety.

Cllr PJ Ryan requested an update on works in Portdrine and Gallows Hill Cratloe.

Cllr Gerard Flynn requested that a list of road-work proprieties be compiled and submitted in lieu of potential funding from IPB Insurance Fund.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"That this MD recommend that Clare County Council would take in charge the Graylon Estate, Ballymorris, Cratloe."

Brian McCarthy replied as follows:

In relation to Greyton Park estate, the Planning Authority made a claim on the bond in April 2013 and following intensive negotiations with the bondholder, the bond monies were received in 2016. A list of priority works together with a costing was compiled by the Planning Authority in March 2017, which includes for the cost of reconnecting the public lighting in this development. Tender documents issued in June have now been received. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed shortly to carry out the priority works in this development over the coming months. The extent of works will be subject to the available bond.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"That this MD recommend that Clare County Council would take in charge the Brickhill Estate, Gallows Hill Road , Cratloe ."

Brian McCarthy replied as follows:

In relation to Brickhill West, this development was added to our Register of Estates early in 2017. An assessment was carried out by Planning Department in March 2017 and a

schedule of works prepared. The Planning Department will pursue any avenues for funding for these works.

Cllr PJ Ryan advised that a poll had been taken by the residents of this estate and they voted to change the estate's name to Laurel Lane. Cllr PJ Ryan proposed and Cllr Gerard Flynn seconded this name change to Laurel Lane and the Members agreed. Cllr PJ Ryan will advise the Planning Department of this change.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"That this MD requests the Department of Defence install traffic calming measures and stop sign/Line at the entrance/exit of the Knockalisheen Centre on the L-3032 Knockalisheen Road ."

Cllr PJ Ryan has requested the MD write to the Minister of Defence.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"That Bus Eireann provide a bus shelter in the village of Newmarket of Fergus as there is a great demand for same."

Cllr Pat McMahon has requested the MD write to Bus Eireann.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

"I would ask Clare County Council to provide a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Halpin's Garage, Newmarket of Fergus as there is a great need for same."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

In order to determine the need for a pedestrian crossing at this location an Assessment of Need must be undertaken including an on-site survey of the physical environment and nearby amenities, traffic and pedestrian surveys etc. Subject to resource availability arrangements will be made to undertake this assessment in due course.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"I request that Shannon Municipal Authority ask Shannon Group to extend the bus and car park in Bunratty to provide a new car-park (with the co-operation of Clare County Council) in the vicinity of Dirty Nelly's."

Cllr Pat McMahon has requested a feasibility study be carried out for an overflow carpark on the Council's property near the main Bunratty Folk Park car-park in order to accommodate parking during peak times and the Members agreed.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That double yellow lines be put in place at the entrance/exit to Dun na Ri."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

This location will be monitored over the next period of time with a view to considering the most appropriate course of action required to deal with parking issues at the junction with Bothar na Luachra.

Cllr Mike McKee has requested that this location is monitored particularly during Mass times and Funeral times in order to get a full perspective of the parking issues, the Members agreed.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare County Council, when funding becomes available, resurface the rear of numbers 10 to 14 Rossbracken."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

While no funding is available in the current year to undertake works at this location it will be considered for inclusion in next year's Works Programme.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That an update be given on the trees at the rear of Pinewood/the Grove."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The original proposal in relation to the trees on Tullyglass Hill was for clear-fell due to the age and condition of the tree stock present. This proposal was subsequently revised such that the clearance along with re-planting would be undertaken in 3 phases over a 10 year period. However the Felling Licence application to the Forest Service to undertake these works has been on hold for some time due to concerns expressed in relation to this proposed phased approach. A report by an experienced Registered Forester has recently been received by the council and it is anticipated that the content of this report will serve to allay the concerns of the Forest Service and allow this project to progress.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council in partnership with other bodies enhance Shannon Town Roundabout and create a suitable feature to acknowledge the presence of Shannon Airport Town.

The current roundabout is overgrown and reflects very badly on our Town the Airport and Industrial areas. I am looking for a more positive and themed feature at this location.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

The Shannon Town Roundabout is under the jurisdiction of TII with maintenance undertaken by Colas Roadbridge on it’s behalf. Undoubtedly, given it’s high profile and heavily trafficked location, there is scope to improve the appearance of this roundabout in order to enhance it’s aesthetic and amenity value within the surrounding environment on the approaches to the Town, Airport and Free Zones. Shannon MD will consult with TII in relation to the concerns expressed.

Cllr Gerard Flynn wants this prioritised and wants a representative from TII to meet with the Members.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

“That Clare County Council in the interest of progressing the development plan for Shannon begin the development of Bothar Mor (N19) as A Streetscape and also that consideration be given to the Council taking over Skycourt as a public centre with a view to the creation of a Proper Town with decent services. Clare County Council took over Shannon in September 2004 from Shannon Development and 13 years later very little has been achieved in order to bring Shannon forward as the 2nd Town in Clare. Many plans from the council But little progress. I am calling on the Council to Develop Shannon and finish the ground work done by Shannon Development.”

Brian McCarthy replied as follows:

The Planning Authority prepared the first Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan in 2012, reflecting the role and status of Shannon town within the county. This was shortly followed by the preparation of the award winning Shannon Green Infrastructure Plan - in January 2013, which includes a range of detailed projects to develop and enhance key areas within the town, one of which is the development of the new Shannon Town Park, currently underway and evidence of the successful implementation of key objectives of the plans.

One of the objectives of the Shannon Local Area Plan - LAP5.1 is “To consolidate the existing core retail area through the continuing improvement of the quality and range of retail offer, aesthetic improvements, the development of a streetscape onto Bothar Mor, improved access arrangements and by facilitating a growth in retail floor space that enhances the quality of service for the surrounding areas.”

Clare County Council will favourably consider comprehensive development proposals for the town centre which are consistent with the above objective. It should be noted that whilst the Local Area Plan can set the positive framework for such development, the Council is reliant on developments to come forward. The Council's development contribution scheme provides for significant reductions for developments which support the central core area of Shannon town, further enhancing the attractiveness of developing in the town and along Bothar Mor.

With regard to the suggestion that the Council consider taking over the shopping centre, in light of the current ownership arrangements it would not be appropriate to elaborate or comment.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare County Council make sure that maintenance in Shannon is kept to a high standard and especially maintenance of the - Green Areas/ River Walk/ Footpaths/ Roads/ Signage and Public Lights. A lot of time is been spent by officials in the Council chasing some Contractors who persistently do not keep up with specific areas of work and indeed Public Representatives and Officials Do Not have the resources to continue with this approach and especially in light of the Local Government Reduced Funding. Consideration may have to be given to an increase in personnel employed by the council and a reduction in contractors."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

While issues can arise from time to time with the quality of work output by some contractors operating for the Shannon MD, by and large such issues are dealt with promptly. The main factor in relation to maintenance of the areas referred relates to scarcity of resources required to undertake necessary maintenance works. In relation to staff recruitment it is noteworthy that two new General Operatives recently commenced work with the Shannon MD outdoor crews which will undoubtedly enable increased work output in dealing with some of the issues raised.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"Now that it has been agreed, in principle, to locate a community playground on a section of ground adjacent to the Sean Choill all-weather pitches in Shanakyle, Parteen I propose that the following range of measures to improve pedestrian and driver safety be considered:

- I) Traffic calming on the main Parteen - Corbally Road;
- II) Speed ramps on the Shanakyle Road;
- lii) New line markings and signage;
- IV) A better defined junction point at the joining point of the Parteen-Corbally Road and Shanakyle Road and
- V) A pedestrian crossing to Corbally United."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

All of the measures proposed to improve pedestrian and driver safety will be considered in the context of the Planning process in respect of this playground.

Cllr Cathal Crowe requested that Eugene O'Shea assess the items listed when he compiles his report during the planning process for this development.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

"That Clare Co. Council cut the grass in all public spaces in Meelick (village area near housing estates) for a few weeks until such time as the Dept. of Social Protection and the Clare Local Development Company appoint new TUS workers to carry out such works in the locality."

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Given the available budget for maintenance of green areas and commitments already made in respect of various works throughout the Shannon MD it is unlikely that the council will be in a position to undertake the additional grass-cutting requested.

Cllr Cathal Crowe requested Eugene O'Shea to review this.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr agus glacadh leis:

"We, the elected members of the Shannon Municipal District, consider the Westbury estate to be over-developed at this time (more than 1,000 houses accessed via a single entrance road) and implore Clare County Council's Planning Department to refuse all future applications for multiple housing developments within the estate."

Brian McCarthy replied as follows:

At present under the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, there is a limited area of undeveloped land within the Westbury estate zoned for Residential purposes which can be accessed from the existing entrance. One such area has the benefit of an existing planning permission, Pl. Ref 14/586 which expires in May 2020. This permission relates to land in the Bruachlán area of the estate in a brownfield area of land which previously had the benefit of permission.

Aside from this, as stated, there is a limited area of land zoned for development within Westbury. Notwithstanding, having regard to the legal framework within which the Planning Authority must comply with, it is not possible nor appropriate for the Planning Authority to pre-judge the assessment or determination of any future planning applications. All planning applications are assessed on their own merits having regard to the provisions of the Planning Acts and Regulations, statutory plans, ministerial guidelines, the proper planning and sustainable development and any 3rd party submissions.

The Members requested Cllr Cathal Crowe amend the wording of this Notice of Motion, as follows:

“We, the elected members of the Shannon Municipal District have concerns that the Westbury Estate has been overdeveloped here-to-fore and, bearing in mind that more than 1,000 houses are accessed via a single entrance road, implore Clare County Council to :

1. Compile a report for the elected members on the density and infrastructural deficits of the Westbury Estate,
2. Pursue the need for an additional access road to the Westbury Estate before any future planning applications for multiple housing developments are considered”

This amended motion was then proposed by Cllr Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“I am requesting that the car-park at the rear of the Church in Sixmilebridge be resurfaced and re-lined.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

While no funding is available in the current year to undertake the significant works required at this car park it will be considered for inclusion in the 2018 Works Programme.

The Cathaoirleach suspended Standing Orders at 11.30am in order to progress with the agenda. This was proposed by Cllr Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr Cathal Crowe and agreed by all the Members.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

“I am requesting a safety barrier be installed at the side of the Shopping Centre at Woodcross Cratloe in the interest of safety for children and pedestrians alike.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

Subject to agreement on the location of the proposed pedestrian barrier and to available resources these works will be undertaken in due course.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

“I am requesting traffic calming measures be put in place in Ashview Drive Estate, Sixmilebridge in the interest of safety of all the residents and particularly the children.”

Eugene O’Shea replied as follows:

In the first instance traffic surveys are required in order to determine if traffic calming measures are needed in this estate and arrangements will be made at the earliest opportunity to undertake these surveys.

29. Correspondence

- Letter from Leonard Cleary regarding appointment of Part-time Caretaker for Kilquane Burial Ground.(Item No. 5 on Agenda)
- Email reply received from Irish Water (Item No. 3 on Agenda)
- Email from Derek Barrett, The Shannon Venue– Funding Contribution Request
- Email from Olive Carey – Funding Request for Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project (Item No. 8)

30. Any Other Business (AOB)

- With regard to the correspondence received from Derek Barrett requesting funding for the Shannon Venue – Cllr Gerard Flynn proposed and Cllr Mike McKee seconded that this funding request should be referred to Senior Management in Clare County Council as the MD does not have resources available to support this request. The Members agreed.

The meeting then concluded.

Cathaoirleach

12th September 2017

Meetings Administrator

12th September 2017