

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th March 2020 at 9.45am at the office of the Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare.

Present: Councillors Gerard Flynn (Cathaoirleach), P.J. Ryan, Michael Begley, Donna McGettigan, John Crowe, Pat McMahon, Pat O’Gorman, Liam Conneally Director of Services, Jason Murphy Senior Executive Officer, John Leahy Senior Engineer, John Corry Administrative Officer, Tony Neville Senior Executive Engineer, Aidan O’Rourke Senior Executive Engineer, Siobhán O’Reilly, Administrative Officer, Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach Gerard Flynn opened the meeting and welcomed all present with particular mention to the 2 new members, Cllr Donna McGettigan and Cllr Pat O’Gorman.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 21st January 2020

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 21st January, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

2. Minutes of the adjourned January Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District held on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020

The minutes of the adjourned Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd January, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

Cllr Gerard Flynn drew attention to the proposal by Cllr PJ Ryan at the January meeting in relation to dedicating the Bandstand at Shannon Town Park to the memory of the late Cllr Mike McKee. A notice of motion in relation to this matter was included in the March meeting. Cllr Flynn advised as this matter had already been proposed and agreed at the January meeting that it could not be raised again at the March meeting in line with MD Meeting Standing Orders. Liam Conneally advised that the Forward Planning unit had been pricing a number of options for the memorial structure and will advise in relation to same at the May 2020 meeting. The Council has also been in touch with the family of the late Cllr McKee and will proceed once agreed.

3. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District held on 5th February 2020

The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

4. Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020– Presentation by John Leahy

John Leahy advised members that provision is being made to put in place a second outdoor crew in Shannon and will result in an increase in outdoor staff from 19 to 23. The budget for the extra crew will be covered in the SMDW and the recruitment process in relation to same has commenced.

John Leahy, Senior Engineer & John Corry, Administrative Officer both addressed the meeting with regard to the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) 2020.

In 2020, the total fund available is €30.5m for all areas.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020 was circulated Members in advance of the meeting. The table below summarises the grant allocation for Shannon Municipal District

Grants	2020
Strategic R & L	100,000
Safety improvement works	140,000
Discretionary	270,000
Restoration Improvement	1,369,641
Bridge rehabilitation	271,500
Specific Improvements	250,000
Drainage works	103,564
Restoration Maintenance	369,752
National Road – (N19 Airport)	250,000
Street Cleaning	244,609
Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces	192,000
Non-national Road Maintenance	280,000
Total CHECK	3,841,066

In addition, John Corry advised that the council has not yet received an allocation for the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) for 2020.

Grant funding for the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) for 2020 has been reduced on the basis that the Council advertised for CIS applications in 2019 in respect of works to be undertaken in 2020 and 2021 and were in a position to undertake works for practically all applications received for 2020 and 2021 in 2019. Applications will be invited in respect of the reduced allocation of €142k.

Tony Neville, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing addressed the meeting with respect to the housing element of the SMDW.

Description	Amount
Housing Maintenance	213,147
Traveller Accommodation	25,000
Estate Management	15,000

With regard to Burial Grounds, Cllr PJ Ryan raised the matter of maintenance works required at a number of Burial Grounds and in particular to Feenagh and Killeen Burial Grounds. The issue of flooding at Craughaun Graveyard has been the subject of a number of Notice of Motions and Aidan O'Rourke advised that he has been on site and accepts that a drainage job is required. This work would need to be carried out in a number of phases in order to resolve the problem.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020 was proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

At this stage of the meeting Cllr. Gerard Flynn welcomed Jason Murphy to his new appointment as Senior Executive Officer of the Shannon MD.

5. Community Grant Scheme 2020

A total sum of €35,000 was proposed for distribution between community groups. This was proposed by Cllr. Michael Begley and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahan and agreed by all.

6. Road Works Programme

- Aidan O'Rourke advised that works will commence per the SMDW. Weather has impacted on timelines as flooding issues have had to be dealt with.

- Permanent repair of potholes arising from bad weather is preferable to temporary solutions.
- Cllr PJ Ryan referred to previous NOM re repair works to be carried out to the boundary wall at Nix's bridge near Meelick. Aidan O'Rourke advised that the boundary wall replacement will be dealt with.
- Cllr. Michael Begley queried the availability of the velocity patcher to the Shannon MD requesting that consideration be given to making it available more often to the Shannon MD.

7. Economic Development

Liam Conneally advised that the Consultants have signed the Letter of Acceptance for the Shannon Town Master Plan and an initial meeting will be held with them in the coming weeks.

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner will attend the next meeting with the appointed consultants to brief members on timelines, the works package etc.

The deadline for the URDF applications is the 31st March. Carmel Greene, Jason Murphy and Brian McCarthy are working on these and one application will be submitted from the Shannon MD.

Notice of Motion No. 11 from Cllr. PJ Ryan was taken with the following Notice of Motion from Cllr. Pat McMahan

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Mc Mahon

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Due to the dangerous driving of a minority of motorists, that Clare County Council install traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the Wells school, Newmarket-on-Fergus as soon as possible and in the meantime that the Gardai maintain a very visible presence especially during school hours.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A speed survey carried out on 15th Jan 2020 indicated a majority compliance with the current speed limit of 80km/hour. There are no records of serious accident on the accident database for the location. Whilst there may be a small number of regular users of this road exceeding the speed limit at the location, this would be a matter for An Garda Siochana and would not qualify for funding for speed reduction works under the low cost safety scheme. I would recommend that the Shannon Municipal District forward a letter of concern to An Garda Siochana requesting speed checking at the location, and that the location be placed on record for consideration of a reduction in speed limit during the next limit review.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That this MD would install traffic calming measures on the Old N18 adjacent to Clonmoney National School as the measures that already exist are ineffective.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A speed survey carried out on 15th Jan 2020 indicated a majority compliance with the current speed limit of 80km/hour. There are no records of serious accident on the accident database for the location. Whilst there may be a small number of regular users of this road exceeding the speed limit at the location, this would be a matter for An Garda Siochana and would not qualify for funding for speed reduction works under the low cost safety scheme. I would recommend that the Shannon Municipal District forward a letter of concern to An Garda Siochana requesting speed checking at the location, and

that the location be placed on record for consideration of a reduction in speed limit during the next limit review.

Both Notice of Motion no. 8 & 11 was supported by all the Members. The lengthy process involved in reducing speed limits was highlighted by the Members and a call for more urgency in addressing this issue in view of safety concerns for children was emphasised.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

I request Clare County Council to have the Disabled Parking Bays in Newmarket-on-Fergus brought up to the design criteria standard as set out by the Irish Wheelchair Association.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The Wheelchair parking bays in areas of public control will be examined as to their compatibility with current standards and where deficient will be re-marked or altered to bring up to standard as part of the roadworks programme road marking contract works.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Due to safety concerns for children and pedestrians in general, I am requesting this Council to introduce safety measures in the village of Nemarket-on-Fergus at the following locations:

- (i) In the vicinity of the National School on the Ennis Road,
- (ii) At the Square, Newmarket On Fergus.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

As part of the proposed general municipal allocation works a speed feedback sign will be installed on the Ennis road in the vicinity of the school. An examination of the situation at the square will be undertaken to determine what measures, if any, are warranted at this location. This will be carried out as soon as resourcing permits.

Notice of Motion No. 11 from Cllr. PJ Ryan was dealt with earlier.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That this MD would carry out modifications to the entrance of Sixmilebridge Railway Station as long vehicles i.e. buses cannot access the station coming from the Shannon direction.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A survey, examination and design will be required to determine how this might be accommodated given the current geometry of the road junction at this location. The road design section will be requested to examine this issue.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

That this MD would erect directional signs directing people to Meelick Church and School at White's cross upper and lower and Gavin's cross.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The erection of signage to direct persons to locations which are not in public control or ownership is facilitated via a signage licence application process managed by Clare County Councils planning section. The parish administrator or school principal can make an application for any signage required but its purchase and erection is a matter for the third party concerned.

Cllr. PJ Ryan requested that this Notice of Motion requires further consideration. Liam Conneally to raise with the Director of Services for Physical Development for consideration by the Physical Development SPC.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

I am calling on Clare County Council to carry out a survey of the storm water infrastructure serving Shannon Town and to be mindful of the fact that very little has been done to maintain the original system put in place to serve the creation of a new town over sixty years ago. It is very noticeable during the last 10 years or so that at times of rainfall there seems to be a difficulty with a large number of areas around Shannon suffering with flooding incidents due mainly to the Infrastructure unable to take any degree of increased surface water. I believe substantial funding is required to improve the current system and I am confident a survey would identify deficits.

Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:

Funding for ordinary road maintenance works was reduced from 5.316 million in 2008 to 3.28 million in 2020. As a result, maintenance of infrastructure such as storm water has been carried out to lesser degree. In 2018, a grant for drainage works became available and is now part of the Municipal District Programme for works. Whilst it is positive development that some monies are now available, the challenge now remains to deal with larger scale issue.

As part of the upcoming Shannon flood defence study works being carried in conjunction with the OPW, it is intended to survey and examine the main structures of the stormwater network within the town. The results of this work will likely inform the requirement for further works within the town’s storm water network.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am calling on Clare County Council to examine ways of creating private residential development in Shannon. It has been some years since the last private residential development has happened in Shannon and the current trend of private planning permissions becoming social housing is extremely worrying for many people in Shannon that are unable to find new and suitable private property for purchase within the environs of Shannon. Clare County Council having taken over responsibility for Shannon going forward on September 2004 from Shannon Development and in my opinion have a duty to create a balance of residential homes in Shannon as currently people who want to purchase a private residential property are unable to do so and have limited options, some leave their home town and purchase elsewhere. Shannon needs the Council to be conscious of their role in developing Shannon Town.

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner replied as follows:

It is a stated Goal of *The Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan* to deliver quality housing and sustainable communities. The Plan notes that there are opportunities for new greenfield development supplemented by new housing infill and backland sites within the older parts of the town. The achievement of this objective relies on the sustainable and balanced delivery of a range of new build accommodation options by both the private and public sector.

In generally agreeing with the overall sentiments set out in this Notice of Motion and indeed on foot of same, the Planning Department has commenced investigating means of activating and proactively facilitating the delivery of private sector residential development on a number of potential sites in

Shannon, to complement the delivery and acquisition of units by the Housing Department of Clare County Council for social housing.

A further discussion took place in relation to this Motion which received the full support of all the Members. Liam Conneally emphasised the need to balance strong demand with affordability.

At this stage of the meeting it was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe to suspend the standing orders in order to continue with the business of the meeting.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am calling on the Senior Engineer to ensure that adequate measures are applied to deal with the overall green areas in Shannon this year and also to deal with the overgrown grass verge on footpaths and weed control.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The grass cutting contract for 2020 has been overhauled to include for additional strimming and weed control works. Overgrown grass verges are an ongoing issue within our green area maintenance works and it is intended to examine how we might address this with a pilot project to take place this summer along Bóthar Mór, Shannon.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar moladh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

The Cathaoirleach advised that this matter was previously discussed and that the NOM is premature at this point.

I would like to call for the naming of the new park in Shannon to be renamed after the late Mike McKee. The family have called for this and we have over a thousand signatures to support this.

Siobhán O'Reilly replied as follows:

The above matter was previously discussed at the statutory meeting of Shannon Municipal District on the 21st January 2020. At this meeting, Cllr PJ Ryan proposed that consideration be given to a suitable memorial for the late Cllr Mike McKee. As the new park is already named as Shannon Town Park, it was accepted that this would remain. Cllr Ryan proposed that the band-stand in Shannon Town Park be dedicated to the memory of Cllr Mike McKee and that a plaque be placed on the band-stand. This was seconded by Cllr Gerry Flynn and agreed.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr Pat O'Gorman

That provision be made in the 2020 Roads Programme for remedial works to the flooded area of the L-7048, Springfield, Clonlara.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The location will be examined as to its condition and all sources considered for funding for remedial works which may be required.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe

That the flashing amber light north of Clonlara NS be re-instated as it appears to have been struck by a vehicle.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This matter will be examined and the flashing amber light reinstated at the earliest opportunity.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn

That the orange box around O'Reilly's wall at the junction of L-3050 and L-3064 south of Clonlara village, be re-instated.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The remarking of the road at this junction will be undertaken as part of the roadworks programme within the road remarking contract works.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

That Clare County Council undertake urgent remedial work to deal with drainage problems at Portdrine, Cratloe.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Extensive drainage works have been carried in Portdrine, Cratloe as part of multiple years of Roadwork programmes to bring the road up to a good standard. Any residual drainage issues at the location, where water is standing on the road surface, will be examined and actioned when funding is available.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

That Clare County Council and the OPW deepen the channel of the Crompaun Stream in Meelick (in proximity to Nix's Bridge & Pass Road) to prevent future road flooding.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The stream at this location is in the area of responsibility of the OPW. The OPW will be contacted in relation to this Notice of Motion and requested to carry out any maintenance to this stream which is required.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr Michael Begley

That Clare County Council deal with acute drainage problems in proximity to the Limerick Blow Moulding factory on the School Road, Parteen.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

During February 2020, the Shannon Municipal District experienced an exceptional weather event with rainfall total at Shannon Airport the highest on record in the 74 years since the weather station was constructed. This exceptional rainfall event caused many of our usual run off and drainage systems to become temporarily overwhelmed. Given the intensity of the successive rainfall events many drainage systems blocked on a regular basis due to the amount of silt and debris being carried into them. In response to this, normal programmed works were stopped and all available resources in the Shannon District were directed to the maintenance of existing drainage and the protection of people's homes

from flooding for a period of three weeks. The location noted above was once such location which experienced blockage. This location will be revisited to ensure its operational status.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

I am requesting that the flooding problem on the road from the Railway bridge to the Rossmanagher road junction would be rectified as soon as possible.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

During February 2020, the Shannon municipal district experienced an exceptional weather event with rainfall total at Shannon Airport the highest on record in the 74 years since the weather station was constructed. This exceptional rainfall event caused many of our usual run off and drainage systems to become temporarily overwhelmed. Given the intensity of the successive rainfall events many drainage systems blocked on a regular basis due to the amount of silt and debris being carried into them. In response to this, normal programmed works were stopped and all available resources in the Shannon District were directed to the maintenance of existing drainage and the protection of people's homes from flooding for a period of three weeks. The location noted above suffered where surrounding lands experienced flooding which then flooded the road. The location will be examined to determine if any maintenance of existing channels might alleviate the matter.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

I am requesting that the Kilnacreegh road L-30321-0 be drained and resurfaced as this road is in a deplorable state and hasn't had any major work done on it in years.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The road will be examined and considered for inclusion in the next roadworks programme or to be included in this year's works should supplementary funding become available. In the interim, repairs will be made in the current roadworks programme.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe.

Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr Michael Begley

There is a major problem with blocked shores in the Parteen area and on the main road between Clancy's Cross and Larkins Cross. This is causing major problems for residents in the area.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

During February 2020, the Shannon municipal district experienced an exceptional weather event with rainfall total at Shannon Airport the highest on record in the 74 years since the weather station was constructed. This exceptional rainfall event caused many of our usual run off and drainage systems to become temporarily overwhelmed. Given the intensity of the successive rainfall events many drainage systems blocked on a regular basis due to the amount of silt and debris being carried into them. In response to this, normal programmed works were stopped and all available resources in the Shannon District were directed to the maintenance of existing drainage and the protection of people's homes from flooding for a period of three weeks.

Maintenance of the drainage at this location will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

27. Correspondence

- (i) Bus Eireann re bus stops on the N18 dual-carriageway between Bunratty and Cratloemoyle (reply to Notice of Motion from the September 2019 Meeting)

Clarification is required to be sought from Bus Eireann in relation to the reply which stated that Ballymorris and Cratloemoye were not stop locations on the 343 TT.

- (ii) Irish Water re Athlunkard Bridge water mains rehabilitation (reply to Notice of Motion from the January 2020 Meeting).

Concern expressed at the reference in the response which stated that the works to the section of the main would be included in a *prioritisation review for 2021*. These works are considered essential. A response is to issue to Irish Water to highlight the urgency in relation to these works.

- (iii) Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested that a further invitation be extended to Clarecare to attend the next meeting of the Shannon MD to discuss proposals to reduce services in the Community Office and the impact this will have in the town and surrounding areas.

- (iv) Cllr. Pat O’Gorman requested that emergency funding be made available to carry out repairs on the Rossmanagher Road to O’Gorman’s Cross which has had significant damage due to recent flooding.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Gerard Flynn,
Cathaoirleach.

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator.

Dated May, 2020